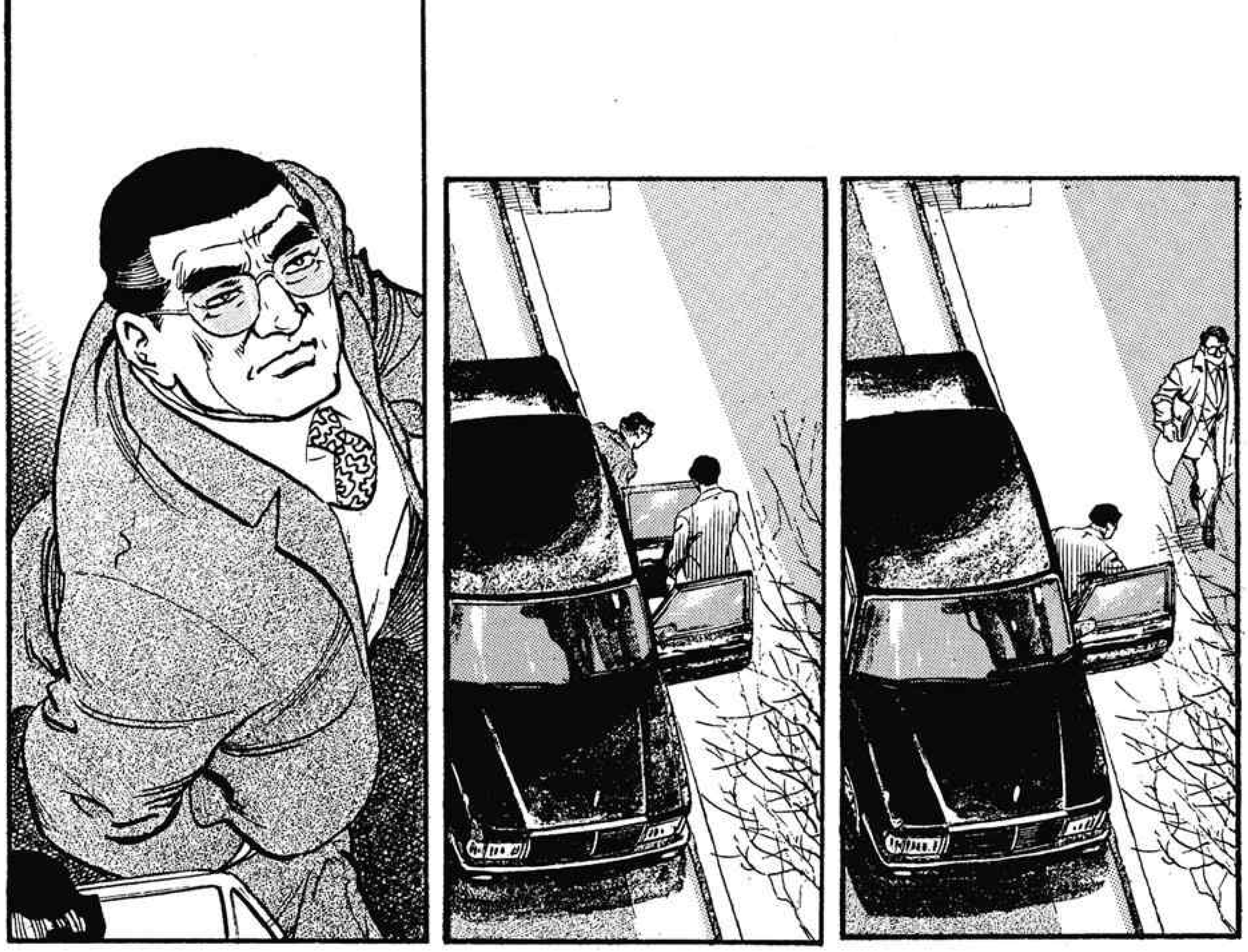
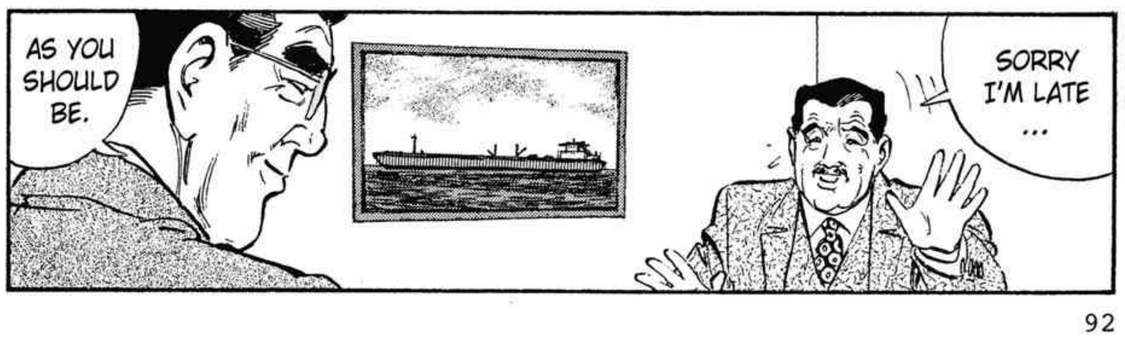
Tokyo: Marubishi Trading Corporation

December 1993



A FIERCE SOUTH ERN CURRENT

PART 1 VENTURE FOR PROFIT



TELL YOU WHAT...I WON'T KEEP YOU LONG, AND MY DRIVER WILL TAKE YOU RIGHT BACK TO THAT PARTY, HM?
LOOK, MR. TANAKA, I CAME BECAUSE WE USED TO DO VENTURES IN THE PAST...
...BUT IF THIS IS ABOUT GRAIN FUTURES, I'VE WASHED MY HANDS OF THAT BUSINESS.

DO YOU EVER GET OUT OF THE OFFICE?
YOU MIGHT HAVE LOST TRACK, BUT IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE. HERE I WAS ABOUT TO GO OUT TO A PARTY, AND SUDDENLY THERE'S THIS GUY IN A CAR TO PICK ME UP...
OH...NOW, DON'T SAY THAT!

THIS ISN'T ABOUT GRAIN.

OH, NO, YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME, MR. MURATA. I DIDN'T ASK YOU HERE FOR THAT.

I'M JUST A FARMER NOW. A FARMER IN A SUIT, BUT STILL, A FARMER.

BUT WHAT'S BIGGER THAN FOOD ...?

OH, I *HEARD* YOU'D GOTTEN SOME BIG PROMOTION.

I'M NOT IN THAT ANYMORE EITHER.

THEN THAT'S ALL THE WORSE FOR ME. I ONLY WORKED IN OIL FUTURES FOR SIX MONTHS, TOPS.

THAT'S WHY I ASKED.

OIL.

I JUST DO...WELL, YOU MIGHT SAY, I DO RESEARCH ...

IN ANY CASE, I'M NOT IN BUYING OR SELLING OIL EITHER.

...

THEY TRANSFERRED ME OUT... GUESS THEY THOUGHT I WASN'T SUITABLE...

AH, NO, THAT'S NOT QUITE IT EITHER...I'M NOT HERE TO QUIZ YOU ON PETROLEUM, MR. MURATA ...

HOW SHALL I PUT IT? I UNDERSTAND YOU MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT... AN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST THEY, AH, CALL GOLGO 13...?

ER...

DON'T BE AFRAID TO GET TO THE POINT.

IT'S LIKE THIS ...

!!

PLEASE, PLEASE, MR. MURATA, YOU MISUNDERSTAND. WE DON'T WANT TO, ER, EMPLOY HIM. WE ONLY WANT TO KNOW HIS INTENTIONS.

A GREAT COMPANY LIKE YOURS WOULD REGRET GETTING INVOLVED WITH THE LIKES OF HIM.

...MR. TANAKA...DO I *KNOW* SOMETHING ABOUT HIM...? YES. SHOULD MARUBISHI TRADING WANT TO? NO.

HE'S NOT INTERESTED IN RACE, POLITICS, IDEOLOGY... ONLY MONEY.

ANY "INTENTIONS" ARE ON THE PART OF HIS CLIENTS.

INTENTIONS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE'S A CONTRACT KILLER, A PROFESSIONAL SNIPER.

BUT WE ARE, AS YOU SAY, A GREAT COMPANY.

...THERE'S NOTHING TO PROVE HE HAS ANY AGENDA OF HIS OWN, ANY PERSONAL PLANS...

AH, YES, THAT'S SORT OF WHAT I'M GETTING AT HERE, MR. MURATA. LOOKING AT THE LIMITED DATA ON THIS, ER, G13...

.....

...SUPPOSE I HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT.

SUPPOSE HE WERE TO DO SOMETHING WHICH MIGHT AFFECT MARUBISHI... OUR FUTURE INVESTMENTS ...

...HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE SPRATLY ISLANDS?

THIS IS ABOUT HIS *MONEY* ...?

MONEY ?

...THEY'VE BEEN IN THE NEWS LATELY ...

OH, I'M SORRY... *AHEM*... BUT, YOU SEE...

...YEAH...I WENT THERE ONCE IN THE 1960S. WITH A WREATH. MY DAD'S SHIP WAS TORPEDOED THERE DURING THE WAR.

I KNOW.

A LOT OF TROUBLE OVER SOME LITTLE ROCKS IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA. THEY'RE SPREAD OUT OVER FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND SQUARE KILOMETERS OF OCEAN...

...ALL OF THEM PUT TOGETHER WOULDN'T MAKE *FIVE* SQUARE KM OF DRY LAND, YET CHINA, VIETNAM, AND THE PHILIPPINES HAVE BEEN SQUABBLING OVER WHO OWNS THEM FOR YEARS...EVEN TAKEN THE OCCASIONAL POTSHOT AT EACH OTHER...

THEN IN 1992, CHINA AND VIETNAM STARTED SEARCHING FOR OIL THERE.

...THAT'S WHAT'S MADE THEM SUCH ORPHANS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. NO ONE CARED *TOO* MUCH.

AH, YES, I SHOULD SAY IT'S EVEN MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT. MALAYSIA, BRUNEI, AND TAIWAN ALL CLAIM PARTS OF THE SPRATLYS AS WELL. THEY'RE TINY AND TRADITIONALLY UNINHABITED...

MM...

SO, LITTLE ROCKS... LIKE DIAMONDS, YOU MIGHT SAY.

AND, CONSIDERING THE STATE OF THE PERSIAN GULF, FEWER TROUBLES... THE SPRATLYS ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE...

JAPAN HAS TO IMPORT ALL ITS OIL. WE'RE ALWAYS INTERESTED IN DIVERSIFYING OUR SOURCES, ESPECIALLY IF IT'S A SOURCE CLOSER TO HOME...SHORTER DISTANCE, LESS EXPENSES.

NOW, I'M JUST ABOUT THERE, MR. MURATA... THEY ARE *ESTIMATED* TO HAVE ALMOST 18 BILLION TONS OF GAS AND OIL, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT THE FOURTH-LARGEST RESERVE ON EARTH.

--WHAT DOES ALL THIS HAVE TO DO WITH GOLGO 13?

.....

NOW OF COURSE, WE'RE NOT TAKING SIDES. WE'VE MADE FRIENDLY INQUIRIES TO ALL SIX NATIONS, LOOKING AHEAD TO A SETTLEMENT...

BUT NO ONE REALLY YET KNOWS FOR CERTAIN. THE CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE TRIED TO SEARCH THE SAME AREAS, AND EACH DEMANDED THE OTHER STOP.

EVERY OTHER FIRM'S DOING THE SAME. BESIDES, IT'S ACTUALLY HELPED PREVENT, ER, HOSTILITIES...

IT'S HARDLY SO IMMORAL, MR. MURATA.

KEEP YOUR PALMS CLEAN NO MATTER WHAT, EH?

WHAT RUMOR ?

AND THEN, QUITE RECENTLY, A RUMOR HAS GOT EVERYONE TENSE AGAIN...

THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED KNOW THE SOONER THEY WORK THIS OUT PEACEFULLY, THE SOONER WE CAN DO BUSINESS.

WELL... IT'S CALLED THE "G FUND."

TWENTY BILLION? YOU'RE SAYING THE FUND'S SET UP BY *HIM*?

.....

...WITHIN FOUR YEARS.

A MAJOR NEW INVESTMENT FUND, PREPARED TO COMMIT 20 BILLION DOLLARS TO ANY NATION ESTABLISHING TITLE IN THE SPRATLYS...

COMING FROM WHERE ...?

...YET NOW THEY'RE SPENDING WHATEVER CASH THEY HAVE TO FIRM UP THEIR MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA.

$20 BILLION'S MORE THAN SOME OF THEIR ANNUAL *BUDGETS*...

WELL, OF COURSE, IT ALL SEEMS QUITE ABSURD... MAN'S A CRIMINAL, AFTER ALL...THE PROBLEM IS, THE COUNTRIES *THEMSELVES* ARE TAKING IT QUITE SERIOUSLY.

.....

TAIWAN RUMMAGED THROUGH EVERY AIRPLANE MAKER IN THE WORLD, BUT IN THE END MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO BUY F-16s FROM THE UNITED STATES.

MALAYSIA BOUGHT FIGHTER JETS FROM RUSSIA...

EXACTLY.

...THEY'RE COUNTING ON THE MONEY?

YOU THINK...

MR. MURATA-- *DOES* GOLGO 13 HAVE THOSE KIND OF ASSETS...?

SO... TO MY *POINT.*

EVEN CHINA CAN'T AFFORD TO PLACE SUDDEN WEAPONS ORDERS ON THAT SCALE. THEY ALL HAVE DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES...EVEN BRUNEI, ITSELF OIL-RICH.

SECRETIVE ...?

WELL, MR. MURATA, HIS FISCAL AFFAIRS ARE SAID TO BE SOME-WHAT...

BUT THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN. IF HE'S GOT THAT MUCH, CAN'T YOU JUST ASK AROUND THE BANKS... THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ...?

TWENTY BILLION, EH? WELL, HE DOESN'T COME CHEAP, THAT'S FOR SURE...I HEAR HE DOESN'T EVEN LOAD HIS GUN FOR UNDER THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. I DON'T DOUBT THE GUY'S MADE HIMSELF RICH.

SEE, I BET *HE* CAN GO TO PARTIES.

. . . . . Oo。

YOU GOTTA LOVE THE SWISS.

GOOD TO KNOW *SOMEBODY'S* ENJOYING PRIVACY--EVEN FROM THE MARUBISHI CORPORA-TION.

CIA, HUH? YOU WANT ME TO SPY ON HIM?

...DID YOU KNOW THE CIA CONSIDERS THE SPRATLYS TO BE A POSSIBLE FLASHPOINT FOR A MAJOR EAST ASIAN WAR?

MR. MURATA...I THINK YOU CAN HARDLY APPRECIATE WHAT THIS RUMOR IS DOING...

WHAT IT COULD DO TO MARUBISHI, TO JAPAN, TO THE WORLD...

YOU AND ME BOTH.

TANAKA, THIS HAD BETTER STOP. HE'LL *KILL* US... DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

THAT...THAT MIGHT NOT ACTUALLY BE ANY SAFER ...

I WANT THIS RUMOR STOPPED, AND STOPPED *DEAD* IF NECESSARY... SO I WANT YOU TO ***WARN*** HIM!

PLEASE, ***PLEASE***, MR. MURATA! ON THE CONTRARY! YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK? I THINK HE KNOWS *NOTHING ABOUT THIS!*

MAYBE NOT AS MUCH AS *HE* GETS FOR A JOB, BUT WE'LL BE GRATEFUL. AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE.

I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU.

THIS AFFECTS YOUR BUSINESS TOO, MR. FARMER-IN-A-SUIT.

WHAT ELSE?

?

IT'S AS YOU SAID...THE WORLD RUNS ON FOOD AND OIL. FROM THE GRAIN COMBINE TO THE BAKERY TRUCK, OUR PRICES GO UP... YOUR PRICES GO UP. AND UP, MR. MURATA.

.....

HMM... I BELIEVE I'VE GOTTEN THROUGH.

NO PROMISES.

BUT IF I CAN MANAGE TO CONTACT HIM, I'LL TELL HIM WHAT YOU SAID.

YOU'LL DO IT?

VERY WELL...

WELL...TRADE SECRETS DON'T GET ANY MORE SECRET THAN *THIS.*

AND, TANAKA... GO HOME.

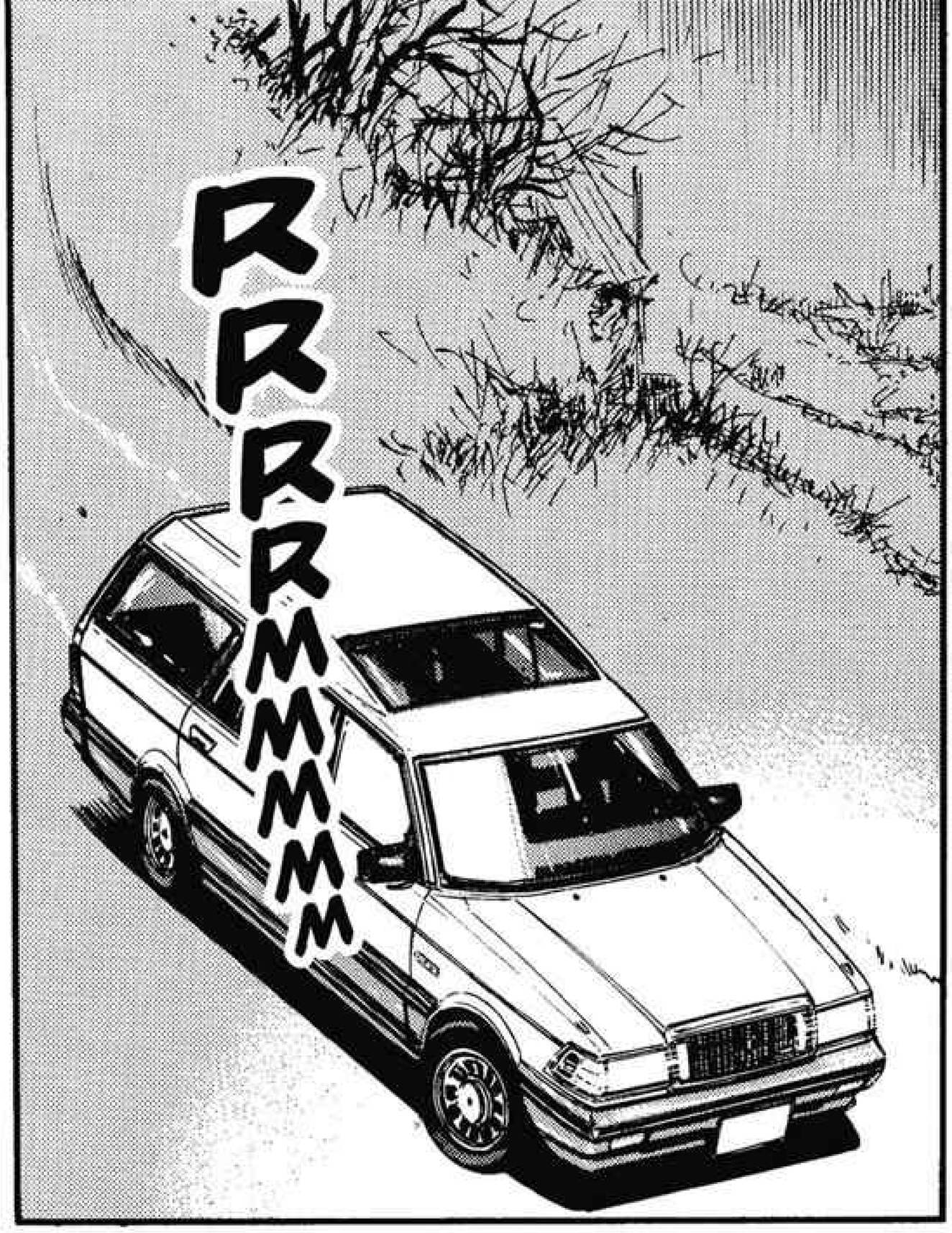
GIVE ME TWO WEEKS.

THANK YOU... THANK YOU, MR. MURATA. AND REST ASSURED, THE COMPANY WILL THANK YOU.

.....

PART 2 GREETINGS IN THE NEW YEAR

January 1994, Iwate Prefecture


RRRRMMMM

KEEP GOING.
NO, DON'T STOP.

!!

...OR DUKE TOGO ?

I-IS IT GOLGO 13...

RRRRRRRRRRRR

SOMEONE PLACED THIS AD IN THE PAPER.

CONVENIENT for ... and entertaining. ... den Hills. 2 bedrooms ... EASY ACCESS TO JR ... way, 3 min. walk to Ebisu ... Rent ¥1,000,000, ... CONTINENTAL HOMES 3792

G-tractor

Apply in person for the design and specifications of the G-type Tractor.

Murata Farming Instruments. Hayase

City, Iwate Prefecture, Japan

Village, Kunohe

0199-XX-XXXX

...PARTMENTS

...or Rent

...Houses

...AS...

IT MEANS...I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO DO A JOB...

...THAT'S A VERY CURIOUS WAY TO CALL.

THE "PARTICULARS" OF A "G-TYPE TRACTOR" ...

...BUT I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D REALLY COME ALL THIS WAY OUT TO THE STICKS.

WELL, THAT WAS ME ...

YOU KNOW MY RULES.

I DON'T WISH TO WISH TO MEET MY CLIENTS A SECOND TIME.

I WANTED TO MEET YOU...

...I'M PREPARED FOR THE PENALTY.

IF MY EXPLANATION ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH...

I...I KNOW... BUT THIS ISN'T A FOLLOW-UP. I'M NOT HERE TO TALK AS A CLIENT.

...SO TELL ME.

I'M ALREADY HERE...

.....

I-I USED TO WORK FOR THE MARUBISHI CORPORATION ...

AND NOW, *WHY* ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?

THAT'S THE GIST OF IT.

...WITHIN FOUR YEARS.

.....

...

...WOULD YOU GET MAD?

IF I SAID CURI-OSITY ...

I SEE.

.....

IS IT TRUE ...?

TELL ME ONE THING ...

.....

AND...

...WHO STARTED IT?

...WELL, OF COURSE, IT'S YOUR BUSINESS WHETHER OR NOT TO ANSWER ME...BUT IF IT'S *FALSE*...

HONG KONG.

1997.

!!

...WHY "WITHIN FOUR YEARS"...?

.....

ACTUALLY, IT'S YOU WHO NEEDS TO ANSWER.

...BUT, THEN...!

AH...

INTEREST-ING!

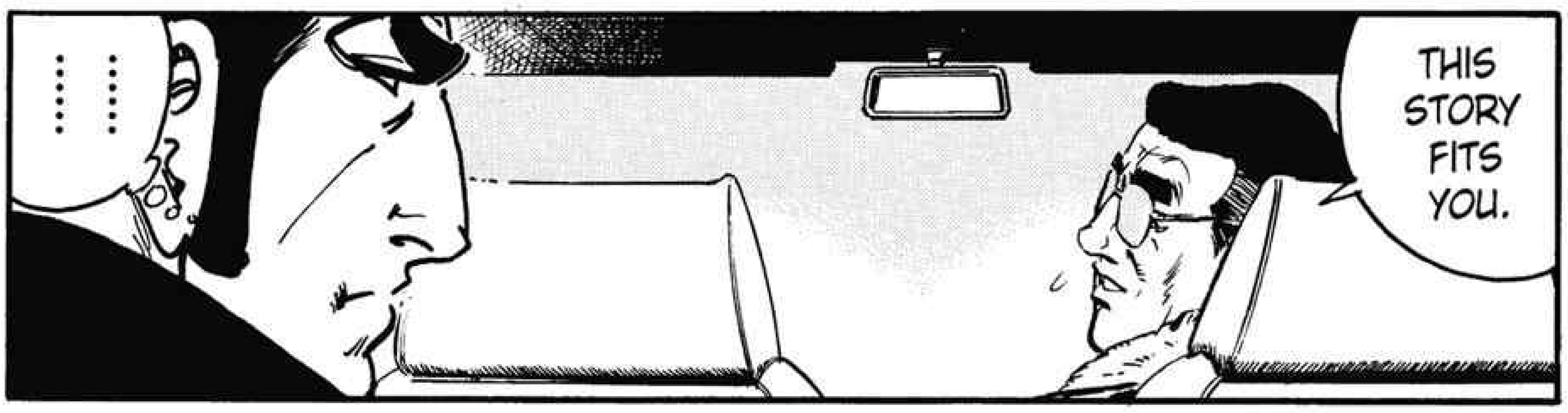
I DIDN'T EVEN CATCH THAT...

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M CURIOUS ABOUT.

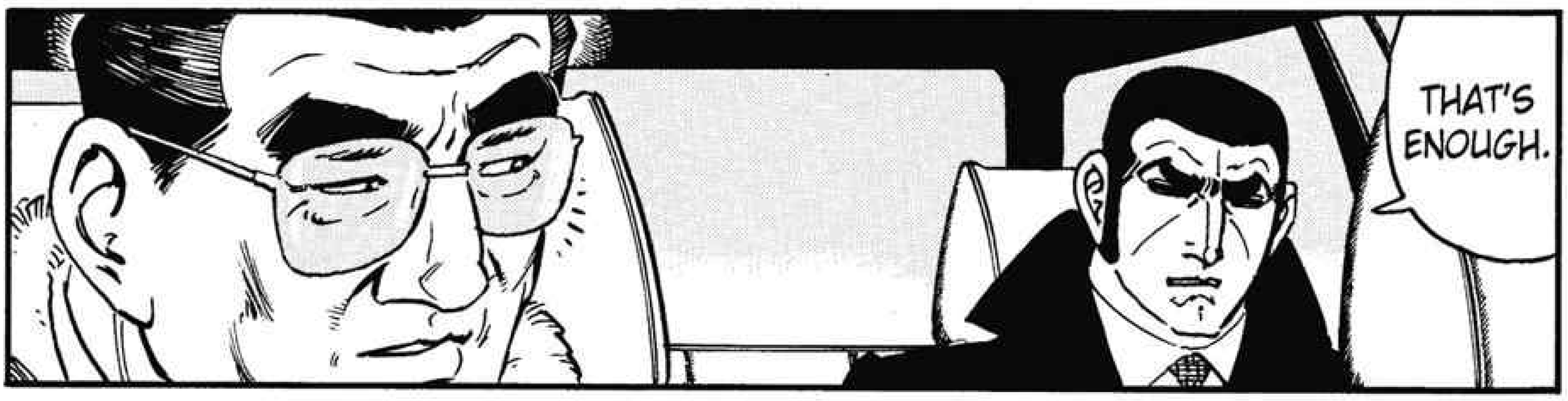
HOW MUCH MONEY YOU'VE MADE ALL THESE YEARS, BE IT MILLIONS OR BILLIONS...I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I WOULDN'T BE FASCINATED TO KNOW.

IS WHAT *YOU* SAID TRUE?

.....


THIS STORY FITS YOU.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT...
...FREE TO PLAY THE BIG GAMES AS WELL AS THE SMALL.
NO, WHAT REALLY FASCINATES ME IS THE IDEA OF ONE MAN, BEHOLDEN TO NO ONE...NO GROUP, NO COMPANY, NO COUNTRY...


THAT'S ENOUGH.

...Y-YES.
FORGET WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT.

DRIVE AWAY. AND DON'T TRY TO COME BACK AGAIN.

NOW.

GOOD-BYE.

VVVVVRRRRRRRRMMMMMMM

PART 3 THE FIRST TRACE

February 1994, Ho Chi Minh City

hhrrm

hssssffff

...aaah ?

...N-NGUYEN THANH LIEM.

M-MY NAME'S...

ANH TÊN LÀ GÌ?

SPRATLY... OH...

YOU WORK IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY... ON THE SPRATLY CLAIMS ...

WHA...? I...I TOLD ...

WHO ARE YOU?

...THE OIL EXPLORATION... THAT'S A BIG PROBLEM..

BUT...THERE'S OUR DEFENSE ISSUES... AND...

...WE CALL THEM *BÀI CÁT VÀNG*...THE GOLDEN SANDBANKS... GOT MAPS GOING BACK 400 YEARS SAYING THEY'RE VIETNAMESE...GOING TO MAKE OUR LEGAL CASE...

...SEE...LOT OF TROUBLE THERE... I TOLD THE MINISTER...LET'S JUST REARRANGE WHAT WE HAVE...PUT OUR TROOPS WHERE WE NEED THEM...ON THE ISLANDS...

HOW'S YOUR BUDGET ?

BUT THE FUND ?

SAID... ISRAEL'S PUSHING SALES...

GOT OVER-RULED...CHINA AND THE PHILIPPINES ARE BUYING NEW ARMS...SAID WE'VE GOT TO, TOO...

FUND...? YEAH...20 BILLION U.S. DOLLARS...

ARE THEY FOR REAL?

THEY'RE CALLED... NORTH AMERICAN-KOREAN CAPITAL GROUP ...

FROM WHERE ?

.....

NO ASSETS...

OH...WELL... THEY EXIST, BUT...JUST ON PAPER..

...THE "G FUND" ...

THEY'RE... JUST A CONDUIT... THE FUND'S BEHIND THEM...

...WHERE IS THE MONEY COMING FROM?

THEN ...

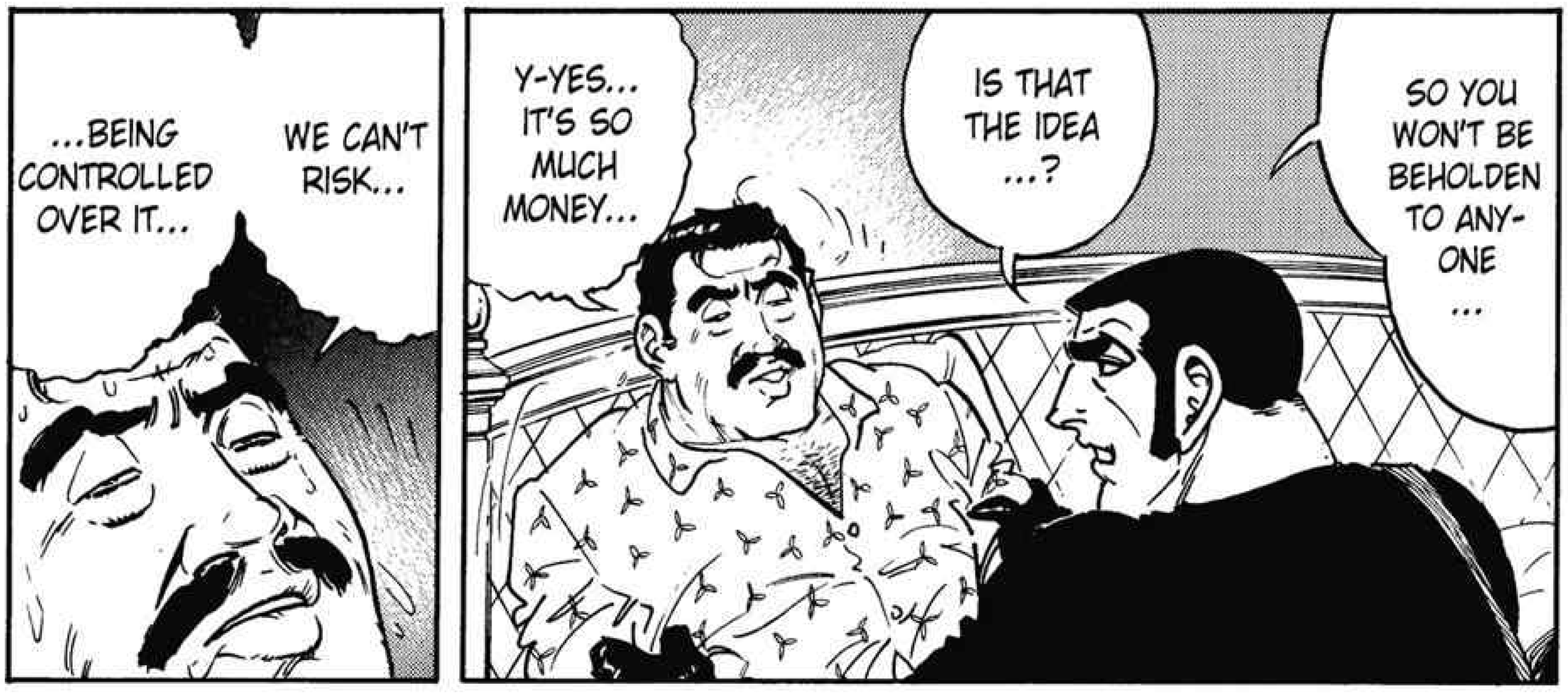
THEY ESTABLISHED A CERTAIN SUM OF MONEY IS THERE. THE MONEY IS REAL. BUT IS THE *"G FUND"* REAL...?

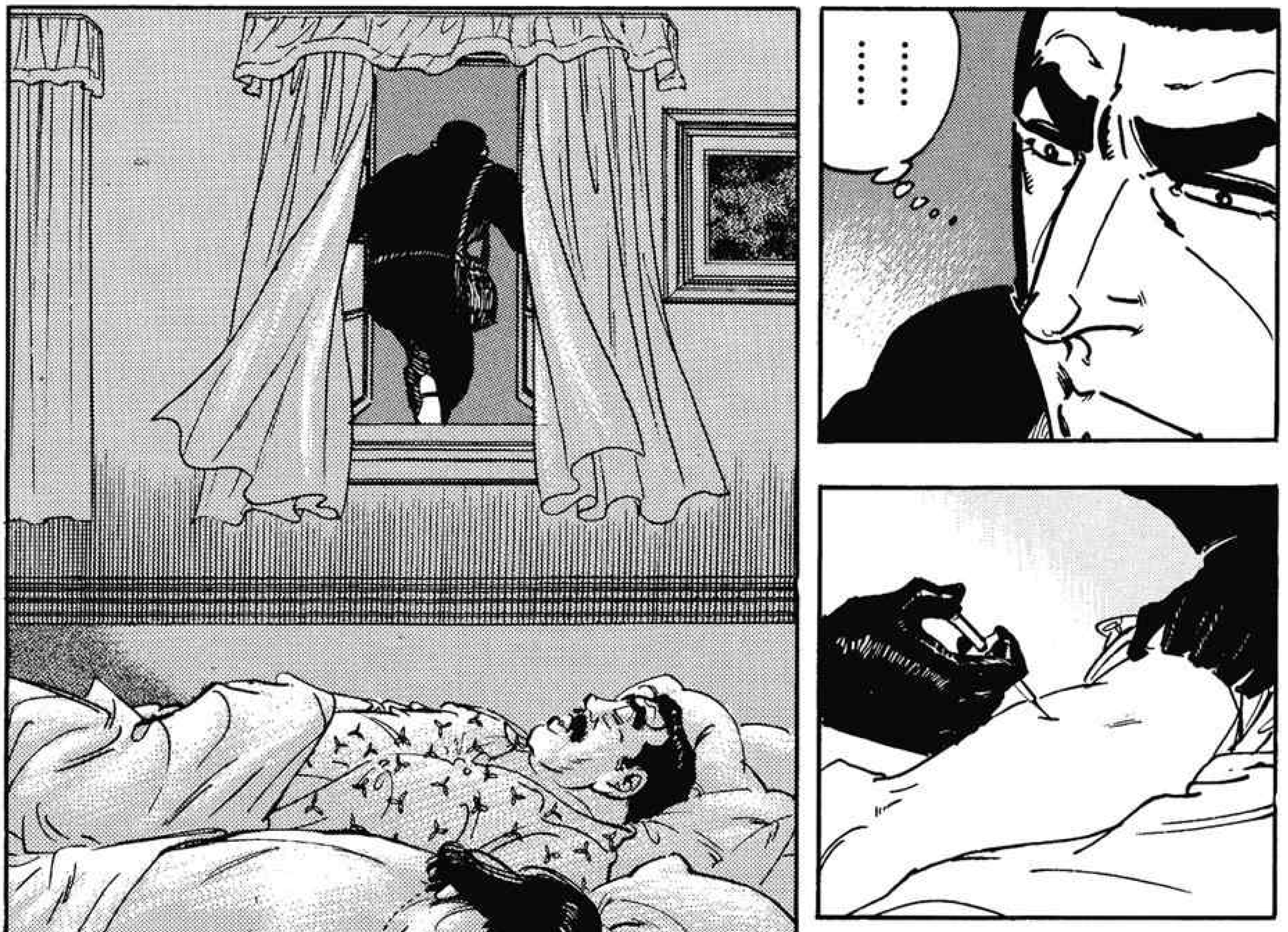
.....

THE MONEY... IS THERE...THE MINISTER WENT TO SWITZERLAND... SPOKE TO PEOPLE THERE...THEY VOUCHED FOR THE SUM..

IS THE "G FUND" REAL?

.....
...THE MONEY'S REAL...
AS LONG AS...THE MONEY IS CERTIFIED... THAT'S WHAT'S IMPORTANT. IT SEEMS TO HAVE...NO CONNECTION TO ANY MAJOR OIL COMPANY...OR FOREIGN GOVERNMENT...THE...


...BEING CONTROLLED OVER IT...
WE CAN'T RISK...
Y-YES... IT'S SO MUCH MONEY...
IS THAT THE IDEA ...?
SO YOU WON'T BE BEHOLDEN TO ANYONE ...


.....

PART 4 THE SECOND TRACE

February 21, 1994, San Remigio, The Philippines

THUMP

JOSEPH, WE HAVE A GUEST ?

OH!

HA-HA... JUST "GOOD MORNING" IS FINE, MADAME.

IS IT *BONJOUR*, OR *KONNICHI WA*?

MONSIEUR ALAIN SAIJO.

THIS IS MY WIFE, MOLLY. MOLLY...THIS IS ONE OF THE ASIA CORRE-SPONDENTS FOR *LE MONDE*.

OH? WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

MY EDITOR MADE A SUDDEN REQUEST, YOU SEE ...

I REGRET TO IN-TRUDE.

IS THAT SO?

...THEY'VE GOT HIM RUNNING ALL OVER THE PACIFIC, IT SEEMS.

THEY'RE DOING A SERIES INTERVIEWING RETIRED VETERANS...

AH, MADAME THORN-DYCE...

WE JUST MOVED HERE BECAUSE WE LIKED TO VISIT CEBU BACK WHEN...

OH, WELL... THIS PLACE IS STILL UNDER RENOVATION. EXCEPT FOR THE DOWNSTAIRS STUDY AND MAYBE THE MASTER BEDROOM, YOU AREN'T GOING TO GET TOO MANY GOOD PHOTOS.

I WON'T DISTURB YOUR HOME.

WE WISH TO HEAR, FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE, THEIR HONEST OPINIONS, NOW THAT THEY ARE--HOW SHALL I PUT IT?-- "OUT OF THE GAME."

...THIS SERIES, I SHOULD SAY, IS TO TALK ABOUT THE ISSUES OF REGIONAL SECURITY, WITH MEN SUCH AS YOUR HUSBAND HERE WHO ONCE HAD THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

.....

OH, DEAR-- DOESN'T SOUND LIKE I COULD CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO THAT. JOSEPH, WHY DON'T I JUST LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE WHILE I GO UP AND WRITE SOME LETTERS?

THAT'S FINE, MOLLY. WE'LL BE ABOUT AN HOUR.

...WHEN THE U.S., AFTER NINETY YEARS, DECIDED TO CLOSE DOWN ITS MILITARY BASES IN THE PHIL-IPPINES.

GOING BACK TO A FEW YEARS AGO...

RIGHT... NOW, WHERE WERE WE?

...AND THE COLD WAR WAS OVER.

...MT. PINATUBO HAD ERUPTED NEARBY, MAKING CONDITIONS HAZARDOUS...

IN SEPTEMBER OF 1991, THE PHILIPPINE SENATE VOTED NOT TO RENEW THE LEASES ON CLARK AIR BASE AND THE NAVAL BASE AT SUBIC BAY. NOW, EVENTS HAD PLAYED A ROLE...

I AM THINKING... THERE IS MORE TO THE STORY.

...HAD BEEN MANY CONSIDER-ATIONS BEHIND IT.

THERE ...

YET SUBIC WAS THE LARGEST U.S. OVERSEAS BASE IN ASIA-- CLARK, THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD.

EVEN AIDS BECAME AN ISSUE...SOME OF THE FILIPINO GROUPS PUSHING FOR BASE CLOSURE ACCUSED OUR SERVICEMEN OF HAVING INTRODUCED HIV INTO THE COUNTRY...

THEY SAID WE WERE A LITERAL DISEASE, NOT JUST A POLITICAL ONE...

INTER-NATIONAL ...?

!

BUT WAS IT DOMESTIC POLITICS ONLY? WERE THERE NOT, GENERAL THORNDYCE, CONSIDERATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES' *INTERNATIONAL* POLICIES...?

THE BASES WERE SEEN AS A SYMBOL OF THE U.S.'S LONG-TIME ACCOMMODATION OF THE FORMER DICTATOR, FERDINAND MARCOS...

!!

AH, SPECIFICALLY, I REFER TO INTERESTS IN THE REGION OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA...

BUT IT IS MOST IM-PORTANT.

PLEASE, SIR. THIS CAN BE OFF THE RECORD.

THAT'S...NOT REALLY AN AREA OF DISCUSSION FOR--

. . . . .

YOUR NAME WILL NOT COME INTO IT.

A RESPONSE CAN BE EXPRESSED AS MY OWN ANALYSIS...

WILL THEY FIND IT CONVENIENT TO BLAME THE PENTAGON FOR THE WITHDRAWAL ?

THEY MAY ARGUE YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUGHT HARDER FOR THEM.

CONSIDER THIS, SIR. PERHAPS A FUTURE ADMINISTRATION WILL COME TO REGARD THE CLOSING OF THESE IMPORTANT, EXPENSIVE BASES AS A BAD POLICY.

ALLOW ME TO SOW THAT IDEA... SHOULD IT BE TRUE.

SIR, I SUSPECT THE DECISION WAS NOT YOURS.

. . . . .

WE DIDN'T FIND THAT OUT UNTIL MUCH LATER.

IT WAS THE WHITE HOUSE THAT ABSOLUTELY INSISTED NOT EVEN A SYMBOLIC U.S. PRESENCE REMAIN IN THE PHILIPPINES.

WE THINK WE COULD HAVE GOTTEN THE POLITICIANS HERE TO AGREE TO THEIR DISARMING, INSTEAD OF TOTAL ABANDON-MENT.

...THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED WE HOLD ONTO SUBIC AND CLARK WITH A SKELETON CREW. WE WERE EVEN WILLING TO REMOVE OUR FORCES, HAVE THEM BE USED PURELY FOR COMMUNICATIONS. A FUTURE PHILIPPINES ADMINISTRATION MIGHT CHANGE ITS MIND AFTER ALL.

CORRECT. WITH NO MISSION OF OUR OWN ANYMORE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, A PRESENCE THIS SIZE WOULD HAVE TO FIGURE IN HOW ANY INDEPENDENT FILIPINO ACTIONS WOULD BE PERCEIVED.

...OVER THE SPRATLY ISLANDS ...?

BECAUSE THE U.S. COULD NOT BE SEEN TO BE SUPPORTING THE PHILIPPINES ...

...THE SAME COMPANY, IN TIGHT WITH THE PENTAGON, ARMING DIFFERENT SIDES IN THE SAME CONFLICT ...

AND SOME OF THE OTHER PLAYERS IN THIS DISPUTE ARE ACQUIRING HIGH-TECH AMERICAN ARMS...HELL, IT'S HARD TO UNTANGLE THE POLITICS OF *THAT*...

AMERICAN-MADE, ISRAELI-MADE WITH AMERICAN PARTS, ISRAELI-MADE AND SOLD BY U.S. COMPANIES...WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

BUT ARE THEY NOT *ISRAELI* ARMS...?

NOW, THE PHILIPPINES HAVE BEEN CLAIMING PARTS OF THE ISLANDS FOR YEARS. LITERALLY-IN 1956, A FILIPINO LAWYER LANDED ON ONE, AND DECLARED IT THE NEW COUNTRY OF KALAYAAN, "FREEDOM-LAND."

WELL, EVERYONE PROTESTED, TAIWAN SENT SHIPS, BUT KALAYAAN STAYED PUT, AND IN '72, WITH ALL EYES ON THE WAR IN VIETNAM, MARCOS MADE KALAYAAN A LEGAL TOWNSHIP OF THE PHILIPPINES.

CHINA

TAIWAN

PHILIPPINES

VIETNAM

SPRATLY ISLANDS

MALAYSIA

BRUNEI

THEY'RE VERY PROUD THERE ARE 12 REGISTERED VOTERS IN KALAYAAN NOW.

IN 1976 THEY MADE THEIR OWN OIL FIND AROUND THERE, AND THEY'VE BEEN PUMPING EVER SINCE. BUT THEY KNOW IT'S JUST A TRICKLE COMPARED TO WHAT COULD BE BENEATH THE REST...AQUINO, THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT AFTER MARCOS, AND RAMOS, HER SUCCESSOR... THEY'RE NOT ABANDONING ANY CLAIMS.

...EVEN IF THEY *GOT* THE ISLANDS, THEY DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO DEVELOP THEM.

...THAT'S WHY THEY MADE AN OFFER TO CHINA AND VIETNAM TO TAKE THE WHOLE THING TO THE WORLD MARITIME TRIBUNAL IN HAMBURG. THEY WERE TURNED DOWN, BUT IF YOU ASK ME, THE WHOLE THING COMES DOWN TO PRACTICALITIES, ANYWAY...

THE FUNNY THING IS, UNDER THE UN CONVENTION ON THE LAWS OF THE SEA, THE PHILIPPINES REALLY *DO* HAVE A GOOD LEGAL CASE ON THE SPRATLYS...

NO...IT'S ALL QUITE INTERESTING, GENERAL.

IT NEVER MADE ANY SENSE TO ME.

WELL, I'M NO POLITICIAN.

. . . . . .

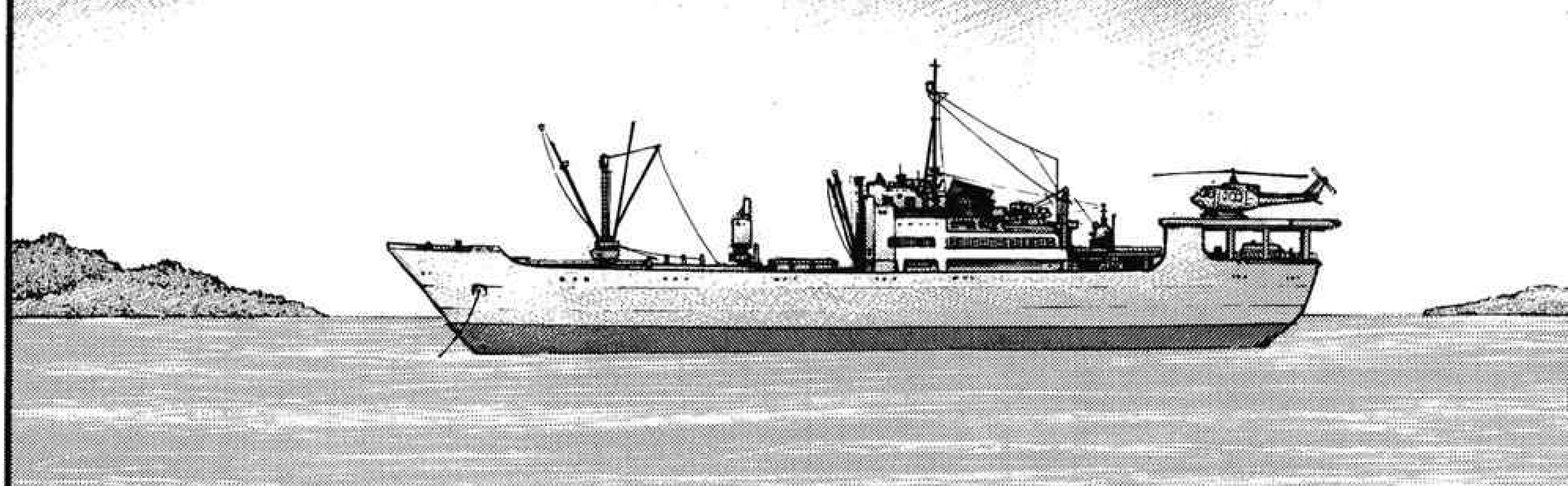
. . .

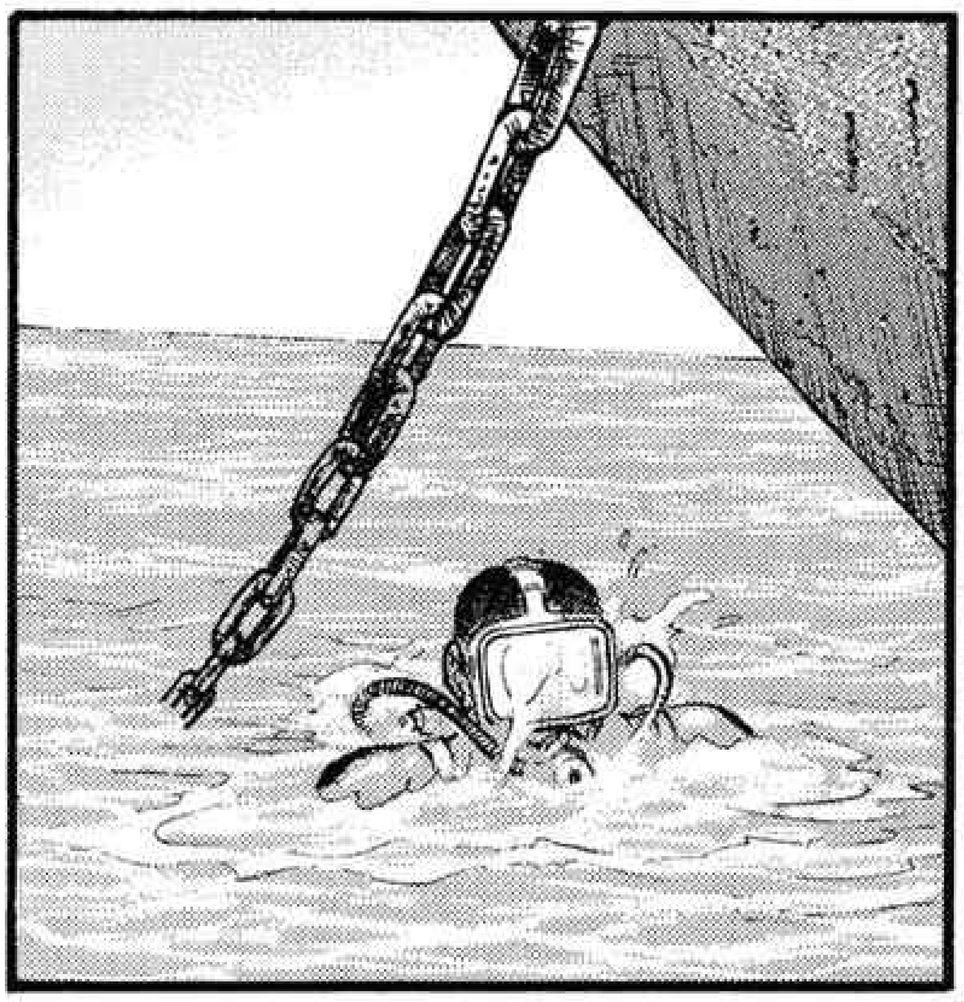
HAVE A GOOD DAY, MR. SAIJO.

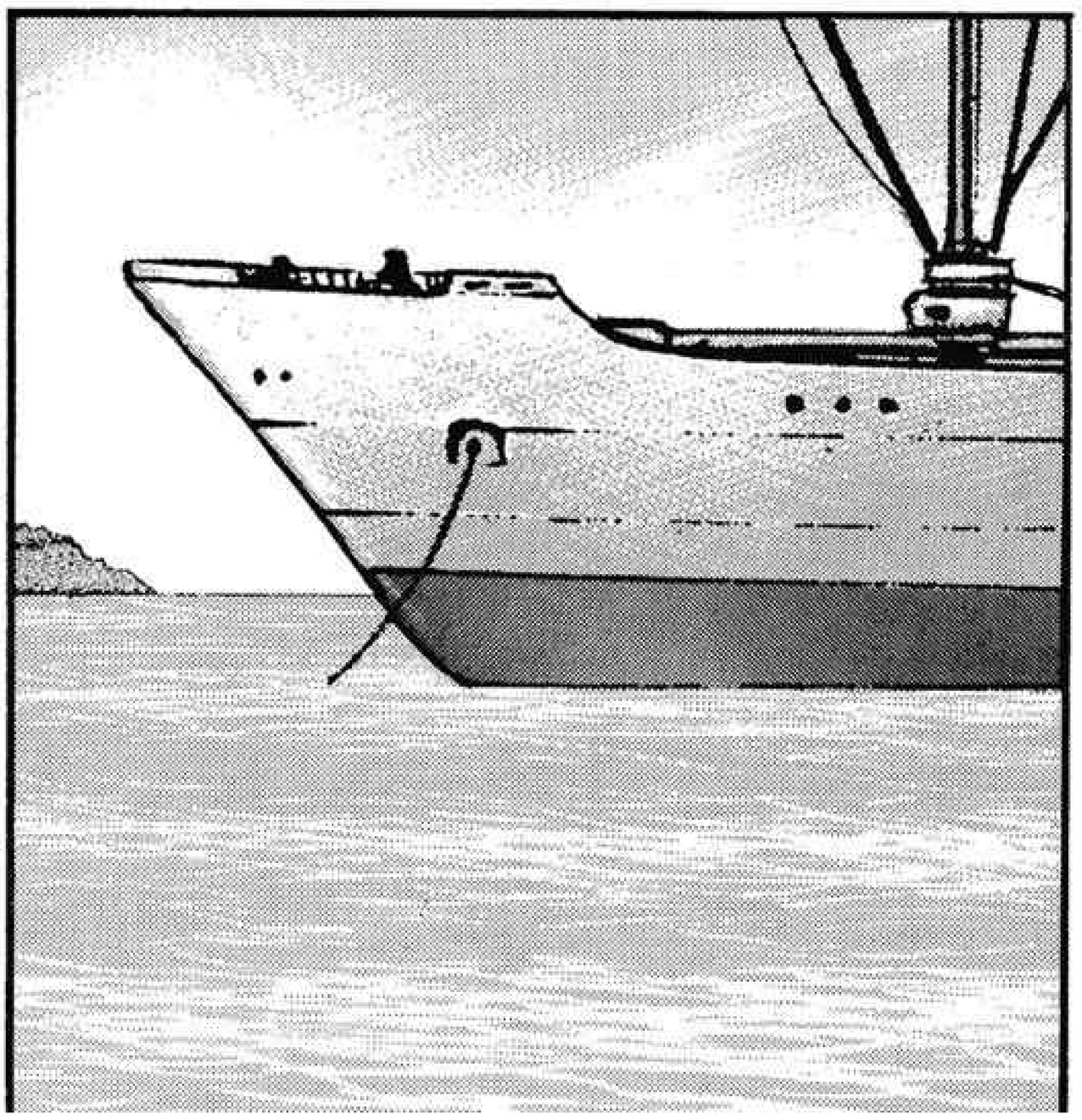
HEY, ONCE THE ARTICLE COMES OUT, DO ME A FAVOR AND SCRIBBLE OUT A COPY IN ENGLISH. I CAN'T ASK POOR MOLLY TO STRAIN HER COLLEGE FRENCH AFTER 40 YEARS. WE'RE *SUPPOSED* TO BE RETIRED!

PART 5 SEA OF FOOLS

March 8, 1994, South China Sea, near 10° N, 115° E







...WE'LL HAVE A FULL RANGE OF PRELIMINARIES FOR YOU WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

OF COURSE ...

CAN WE INCREASE THE DEPTH OF THE CORE SAMPLE ...?

RIGHT... THAT'S ALL FOR NOW.

MR. BATES! IF WE DON'T HURRY, YOU'LL MISS YOUR CONNECTION ON THE ISLAND!

WHHHRRRRRRRNNNNN

VVVRRRRRRR

WHOOM

WHRRN

WHRRN

WHRRN

HOLD ON--

WHAT WAS THAT?

WHRRN

WHRRN

WHRRN

WHRRN

SPRRRSSHH

RMMRMRMMRMMMMM

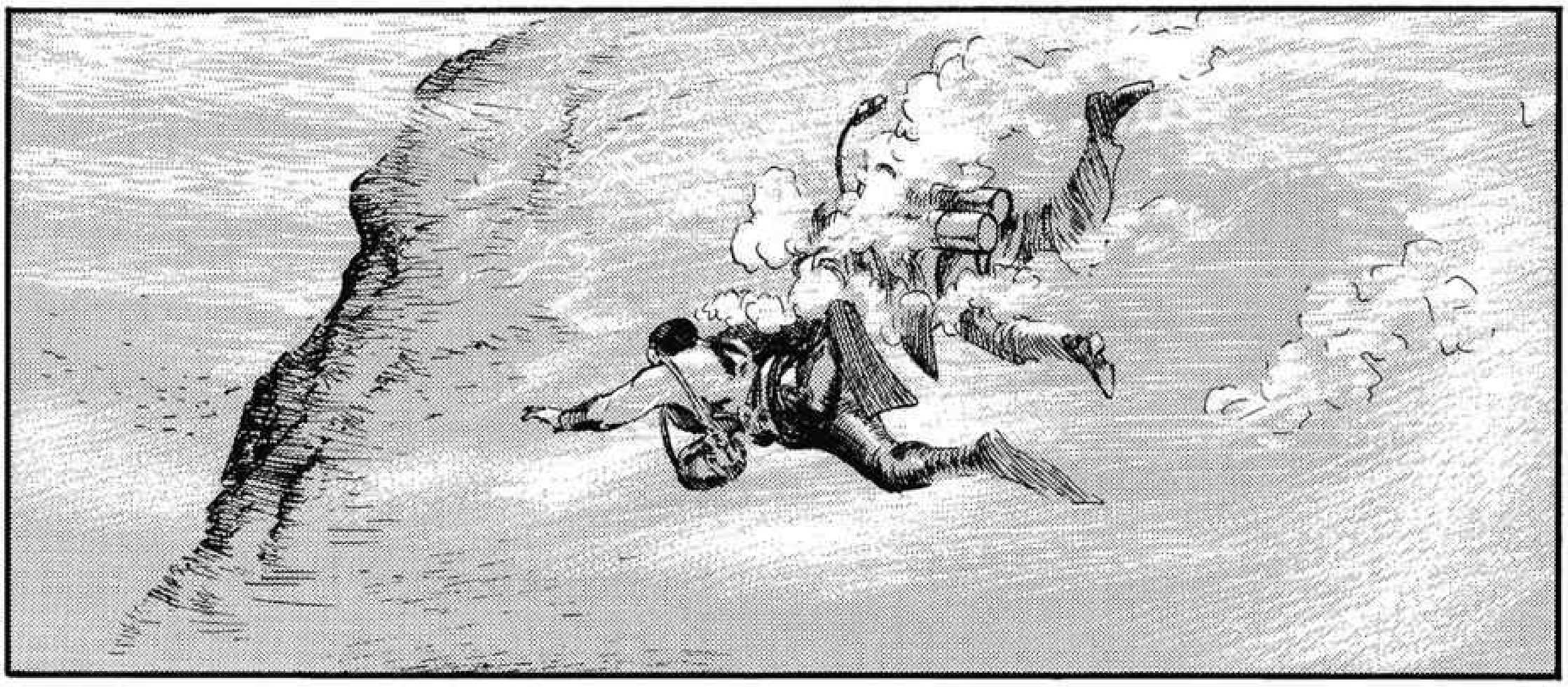
KRRR
SSSSH
HHSSSS

WHAP

AHHK!

SPL
SH

RHM
RHM
RHM



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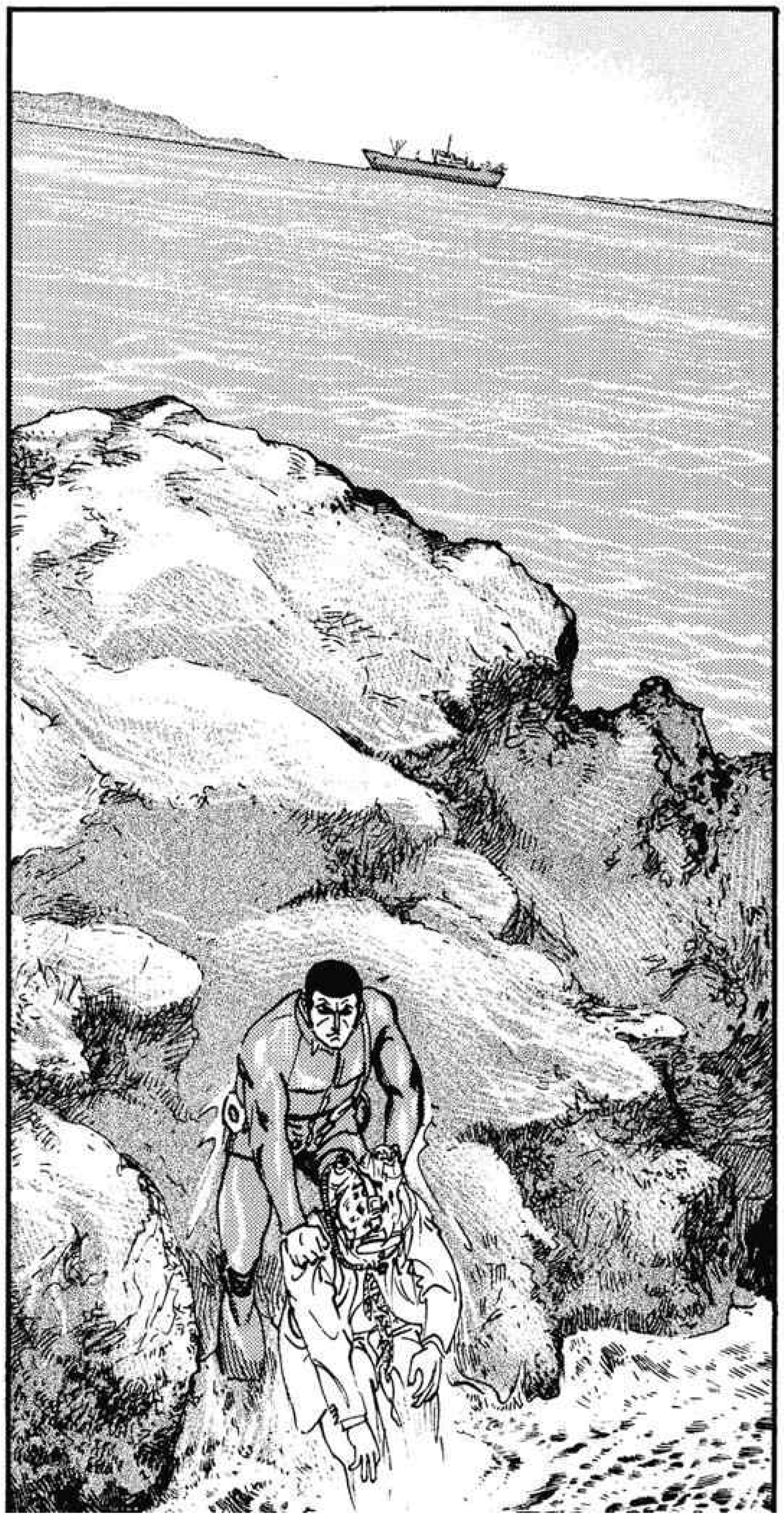
THMP



!!

ARE YOU PATRICK BATES OF MCLANEY OIL DEVELOP-MENT ...?

WHAT? YEAH, THAT'S ME...LOOK, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS KIND OF...

SHUT UP.

YOU WORKING FOR VIET-NAM...?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

WHAT... WHAT THE...

TELL ME.

ANSWER MY QUESTIONS. WHY IS MCLANEY BUYING EXPLORATION RIGHTS HERE FROM CHINA?

HERE...?

THE SAME REASON *YOU'RE* HERE, ASSHOLE! THIS IS GOING TO BE A MAJOR FIELD ONE DAY!

...I MEAN, WHEN I GET BACK TO HOUSTON, I CAN...

IT'S JUST GOOD BUSINESS. L-LOOK...I'M SORRY, BUT THIS WHOLE THING'S A LITTLE...

COULD BE HERE... COULD BE SOME-WHERE ELSE IN THE SPRATLYS. THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO START DRILLING, LAY DOWN A TRACK RECORD...

...WHAT D-DOES ...

...DOESN'T MEAN THERE WILL BE *GOOD* BUSI-NESS.

JUST BECAUSE THERE IS *OIL*...

THE TRUE COST INCLUDES THE RISKS...

WHEN YOU GET BACK TO HOUSTON, YOU CAN TELL THEM MCLANEY NEEDS TO ANALYZE MORE THAN THE CORE SAMPLES.

?

.....

...THE DECISION TO INVEST IS BEYOND ANY ONE OIL EXPERT...

AT THE PRESENT POINT, WHERE THE MILITARY-THE POLITICAL-SITUATION MAY CHANGE HERE AT ANY TIME ...

THERE ARE BENEFITS FOR SOME BEFORE EVEN A SINGLE DROP FLOWS.

THERE'S A FUND...

CHRIST...YOU DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT THIS BUSINESS, DO YOU, BUDDY...? THE WHOLE VENTURE'S INSURED.

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RECOUP FROM CHINA...

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF THE TERRITORIAL RIGHTS FALL TO ANOTHER COUNTRY IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS ...?

IF YOU **KNEW** ABOUT THE DEAL, THEN WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS ALL ABOUT?!

...IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL IT...?

INSURANCE ...

WHSH

WHSH

UH ...

THUD

WHSH

FWMP

KUNCH

hakk

FOOLS
...

PART 6 THE DEFEAT OF "G"

March 27, 1994, Kintamani, Bali, Indonesia

TJAK!

TJAK!

TJAK!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN'T FIND BATES' BODY...?

...I SEE...

...THE RAINY SEASON'S ALMOST OVER.

PRIVACY, MR. CHU! SOON THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT MORE TRAFFIC IN THAT AREA...

LISTEN, THAT'S SAD, VERY SAD, BUT TOO MUCH IS RIDING ON THIS, MR. CHU. WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK ON SCHEDULE WITH THE EXPLORATION.

!!

YOU MAY WAIT A WHILE.

CHAK

I WANT IT UP AGAIN WITHIN THREE DAYS, OR THERE'LL BE NO INCENTIVE BONUSES...ALL RIGHT, CHU...I'LL WAIT FOR YOUR REPORT.

G-
GOLGO
...

GOOD EVENING.

MR. JAKOB NACHTBLOEM, FROM GLOBAL SECURITY PARTNERSHIP COORDIN-ATORS.

...I DON'T KNOW YET.

WELL...

DID...YOU COME TO KILL ME ...?

INVESTIGATING? BUT IF YOU KNOW ENOUGH TO DROP INTO MY OFFICE, THEN YOU MUST ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING...?

I'M STILL INVESTI-GATING.

IT IS, BASIC-ALLY, YOU.

...YET THE GSPC ITSELF HARDLY EXISTS. IT'S BASICALLY AN ELITE DEALMAKER, AN AGENCY.

THE HOW, AND PART OF THE WHY. THE GSPC HAS AN IMPRESSIVE PHONE LIST...OIL COMPANIES, DEFENSE FIRMS, FOREIGN POLICY LOBBYISTS...

SOMEONE ELSE'S CASH, OF COURSE.

THE SPRATLYS WERE A PERFECT CONVERGENCE OF NATIONAL PRIDE, STRATEGIC POTENTIAL, AND UTTER CONFUSION. THEY ONLY NEEDED THE PROSPECT OF A CASH REBATE.

THE END OF THE COLD WAR CREATED A BUSINESS SLUMP...TODAY, YOU REPRESENT ARMS MAKERS TRYING TO REBUILD THEIR ORDERS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE OFFICE, *eh*? BEATS A CHILLY BOARDROOM ANY DAY.

AND SO?

PROCESS OF ELIMINATION, MR. TOGO.

WHY ME, MR. NACHTBLOEM?

AND SO...THE REST OF THE WHY.

WELL, THEN. FUGITIVE MONEY--THE LOOTED OR HIDDEN ASSETS OF THE OUSTED AND DEPOSED. TYRANTS ARE LIKE CEOs... THEY CAREFULLY FOLD THAT GOLDEN PARACHUTE.

CORPORATE OR GOVERNMENT FUNDS--OUT RIGHT THERE.

YOU DESCRIBE A VERY COMPLICATED DEAL... BESIDES A COMMON INTEREST IN SOME WATERY SPECKS, THE SIX PARTIES INVOLVED HAVE *LITTLE* IN COMMON. EACH HAS ITS OWN FEARS AND PREJUDICES. SO WE MUST FIND TWENTY BILLION DIRTY DOLLARS, YET SOMEHOW CLEAN OF ATTACHMENTS. A CHALLENGE, *eh?*

YOU TRY AND USE IT, AND YOU'VE GOT DIPLOMATIC BAGGAGE MADE OF LEAD.

NO GOOD EITHER, I'M AFRAID...ALL THAT MONEY WAS TAKEN LEGALLY AT THE *TIME*, BUT THE PEOPLE RUNNING THOSE COUNTRIES TODAY WOULD CONTEST THAT NOW, *eh?*

THIS CENTURY'S BEEN AWASH IN SUCH FUNDS--FROM TSARS AND SHAHS, EX-PRESIDENTS AND EX-*PRESIDENTES*. MUCH OF IT'S BEEN EVAPORATED, SPENT BY CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN... BUT THERE'S STILL QUITE A BIT OUT THERE.

AH, THEN HOW ABOUT BURIED TREASURE? ASIA HAS THE LEGEND OF GENERAL YAMA-SHITA'S GOLD... EUROPE, THOSE MASTERPIECES OF ART STOLEN BY THE NAZIS AND NEVER FOUND.

EXCEPT, OF COURSE, THESE THINGS DON'T EXIST OUTSIDE OF CONFIDENCE SCAMS...AND THAT BRINGS US TO ORGANIZED CRIME, WHOM NO ONE WANTS TO OWE THAT KIND OF MONEY, EVEN IF THEY REALLY HAD IT.

TWO...?

TWO FUNDS REMAIN.

SO.

...THERE'S AT LEAST FIVE CONTROLLING FAMILIES.

EXCEPT IT'S NOT TOGETHER ...

YES. I CONSIDERED, YOU SEE, THE ASSETS OF THE OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITY. QUITE MASSIVE...MUCH MORE THAN ENOUGH, WHEN PUT TOGETHER.

.....

WELL, THEN. PROBLEMS EVERYWHERE I LOOK, IT SEEMS.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, SUCH MONEY, TOO, RETAINS PLENTY OF STICKY TIES TO THE NATIONS AROUND THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, *eh?*

THIS IS ONE OF THEM.

PLEASE, THE DRAMATICS, MR. TOGO! IF YOU WANT TO HEAR, I'LL TELL YOU, SO PUT THAT THING DOWN. YOU KNOW, THERE *ARE* SOME PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD YOU CAN'T STOP WITH A BULLET.

I'M NOT SURE I SEE MUCH USE IN CONTINUING. THERE ARE, I'M SURE, OTHERS I CAN ASK.

YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION. YOU TOLD ME WHY YOU CAN'T OFFER THIS PERSON'S MONEY, OR THAT PERSON'S MONEY. BUT WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN OFFER *MY* MONEY?

. . . .

TELL ME, IS THIS CONVER-SATION OVER?

I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE TO WRITE ABOUT MY WORK EITHER. THE GSPC SMEARS THOSE WHO TRY, BUT G13, *ha*, HE REALLY SMEARS THEM, *eh*?

WHY *YOU*? WELL, TO BE FRANK, YOU REMIND ME JUST A LITTLE OF MYSELF, SIR. CLIENTS, FAVORS, PAY-MENTS.

WHY ME?

...A WRITER HERE AND THERE...

I MEAN, THE OCCASIONAL JOURNAL-IST...

. . . .

. . . . .

WHY, JUST RECENTLY, YOU KNOW, WE PRODUCED A TV DOCUMENTARY ON THE SPRATLY CONTROVERSY... SOLD IT TO A DOZEN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS...

HERE AND THERE! BUT, I TOLD MYSELF, FOR EVERY *CORPSE*, THERE'S A *THOUSAND FLIES!* THE WORLD MEDIA, SIR, WILL SOON DESCEND ON SOUTHEAST ASIA TO COVER THIS BLACK GOLD RUSH!

AND *THIS* IS WHAT HE DOES WITH HIS ***MONEY*** ...?

AH...BUT ***THEN***, THEY FIND THE STORY *BEHIND* THE STORY! *GOLGO 13?* YOU MEAN HE REALLY ***EXISTS?***

OIL...POLITICS... ARMIES...NAVIES... THE LAST TIME, ALL *THAT* TURNED OUT TO BE PRETTY BIG NEWS. THE THINGS THE GULF WAR DID FOR CNN, *eh?*

A LEGEND NO MORE! A *CELEBRITY*, MR. TOGO!

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ALL THOSE PRESS REPORTERS AND RADIO AND TV NEWS CREWS? SILENCE THEM ONE HEAD SHOT AT A TIME? EVEN ON FULL AUTO YOU'LL NEED A COUPLE DOZEN MAGAZINES!

. . . . .

Hmm

. . . . .

……

BUT SOME OF MY CLIENTS, MR. TOGO...THEY POSITIVELY *HATE* YOU.

YOU'RE A *LITTLE* LIKE ME...JUST A LITTLE. I'M NO LEGEND MATERIAL, EXCEPT PERHAPS ON K STREET. I'M JEALOUS OF YOU. I KIND OF ADMIRE YOU.

THEY HATE YOU...AND THEY ALSO SNEER AT YOU. *TWENTY BILLION?* HOW MANY YEARS DID IT TAKE YOU TO EARN IT, GOLGO 13? HOW MANY DECADES?

I'VE MADE SINGLE ARMS DEALS WORTH MORE THAN THAT.

MY CAREER IS OVER, YOU'RE SAYING...AND YOU NEVER EVEN HAD TO TAKE MY MONEY. JUST OFFER IT.

……

I MEAN, YOU DO REALIZE YOU'RE A *CRIMINAL*, DON'T YOU? I COULD TELL YOU ABOUT *MISSILE SYSTEMS* AND *AIR-CRAFT CARRIERS* THAT WENT UNPURCHASED BECAUSE *YOU* WERE HIRED BY SOME OUT-OF-THE-LOOP ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY!

YOU'RE AN *ASSASSIN!* A ***HIT MAN!*** CIVILIZED COUNTRIES CAN'T DO BUSINESS THAT WAY! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PURSUE YOUR POLICY THROUGH *PROPER CHANNELS!* AIR STRIKES! BOMBARDMENTS! *INVASIONS,* MR. TOGO!

...HE BROKE IT.

AND USING THAT VERY SAME STRENGTH, EVENTUALLY...

JUST OFFER IT. I'M AN AGENT, MR. TOGO. THEY'RE CHANTING THE *KETJAK* FOR THE TOURISTS OUT THERE. IT'S FROM AN OLD HINDU LEGEND ABOUT PRINCE RAMA, WHO ALONE COULD WIELD AND SHOOT SHIVA'S BOW.

I'M NOT GOING TO SHOOT YOU.

REALLY? YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT YOU JUST MIGHT...

AT LEAST I GET TO KEEP IT.

AH, NOW WHO'S BEING DRAMATIC, *eh?* HIS STORY HAD A HAPPY ENDING.

.....

RETIRE! WAIT A WHILE, LAY LOW, AND *ENJOY* YOUR MONEY!

OF COURSE! I NEVER INTENDED TO ADD INJURY TO INSULT, MR. TOGO!

I JUST CAN'T FIGURE YOU OUT!

I MEAN, I CAN'T FIGURE YOU OUT, YOU KNOW?

.....

NO, I REALLY THOUGHT HE MIGHT ...

NO!

I THINK *I'M* RETIRING AFTER THIS, TOO.

...NACHTBLOEM HERE...YES. HE CAVED. TOUGHEST DEAL I EVER MADE.

PART 7 HE WHO HAS ABANDONED ALL

0930 hours, April 1, 1994. United Nations Headquarters

PERSONAL TO...

?

SIR!

WHAT ?

IT'S *GOT* TO BE AN APRIL FOOLS'...

YES?

I THINK YOU SHOULD SEE THIS.

THERE'S...THERE'S TWENTY BILLION DOLLARS HERE.

THEY ARRIVED BY REGISTERED MAIL THIS MORNING, MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL. IT'S A SERIES OF CERTIFIED CHEQUES DRAWN ON FOUR DIFFERENT SWISS ACCOUNTS. LEGAL AFFAIRS CONFIRMED THEIR VALIDITY...

...WHAT *IS* THIS, MS. THEROUX?

WHAT...

Attached please find 40 (forty) certified cheques in the amount of $500,000,000 (five hundred million) U.S. dollars each made out to the United Nations Environment Programme, co JPMorgan Chase, Division of International Agencies Banking, 1166 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. This fund is donated to the UNEP subject to the following terms:

(1.) The fund is to be used for UNEP projects only. The UNEP is to issue through its Division of Communications and Public Information a press release six months prior to the use of any portion of this fund detailing its application to the project(s) thereof. The Executive Director will likewise detail such use, and the status of each project so funded, in the UNEP Annual Report.

(2.) Neither the totality of the fund nor any portion thereof may be transferred, donated, paid or invested towards any nation, organization, individual or entity besides the United Nations Environment Programme. The UNEP may not designate or disburse any portion of this fund in the form of an interest-bearing loan.

(3.) This fund is the donation of an anonymous individual desiring that no inquiries be made towards the source, identity, or origin of the fund.

As an addendum it is noted that copies of this letter have been posted simultaneously to various media representatives (see attached list). It is requested the Secretary-General make a brief statement the day of receipt confirming acceptance of this fund and the above terms specified.

April 1st, 1994

(He Who Has Abandoned All)

...REALLY QUITE ASTONISHING, AFTER ALL...

THIS IS...

MR. STERN, TELL THE PRESS WE'LL HAVE IT AT...LET'S SAY, 11 AM ...?

WHAT IS GOING ON...? MS. THEROUX, PLEASE CONTACT THE NEWS AND MEDIA DIVISION AND ASK THEM TO ARRANGE A BRIEFING.

...FOUR MILLION.

IF I RECALL, THE UNEP BUDGET THIS YEAR IS ONLY...

Hanoi, Vietnam: Local Time 2030 Hours

...WE RECEIVED THIS FAX FROM OUR EMBASSY IN GENEVA.

SIR...

WHAT IS IT, SO LATE ...?

IS THIS TRUE!?

WHAT !?

?

THE SWISS AREN'T GOING TO REVEAL SUCH DETAILS! IT WAS ALL WE COULD DO TO CONFIRM THE FUNDS WERE THERE IN THE *FIRST* PLACE!

FOOL!

IT APPEARS UNCONFIRMED... WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I SHALL VISIT THE BANKS IN QUESTION, AND...

SHIT... BUT I'M NOT THROWING GOOD MONEY AFTER BAD.

30%...?

MONITOR THAT UN NEWS CONFERENCE... GET THEIR OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE! ...NGUYEN! WHERE ARE WE ON THE PURCHASE OF THE NAVAL VESSELS?!

AH...AS OF THE END OF MARCH, WE HAD MADE 30% OF THE PAYMENTS ON THE BRUSSELS EXCHANGE...

Y-YES, SIR!

CANCEL THE ORDER. YOU CAN PAY ANY PENALTY CHARGE UP TO 20%, BUT SEE IF YOU CAN ARGUE THEM DOWN FROM THAT.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Local Time 2130 Hours

MR. PRIME MINISTER ...?

?

THE "G FUND" ...

MY CONDOL-ENCES...

OH, NO, SIR...

PLEASE EXCUSE ME...I, AH, HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD OF A SUDDEN GREAT PERSONAL LOSS...

IMMEDIAT-ELY!

SIR!

YOU. GET MY CAR. YOU. CALL A CABINET MEETING.

RRRRRRRNNNNNNNNNN

Over the Canary Islands: Local Time 1430 Hours

WARM TEA, PLEASE.

...YOUR MAJESTY ...?

WE HAVE RECEIVED AN URGENT TELEGRAM, YOUR MAJESTY.

NOTHING ...

WHAT IS IT...?

. . . . . .

To His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, GCMG, greetings:
As of this morning, the "G Fund" has been liquidated in its totality, all assets assigned to the United Nations Environment Programme. It is requested that His Majesty therefore regard the attachment of the "G Fund" to any potential development in the Spratly Islands as a closed prospect.
G.

THE DEAL, IT SEEMS, WAS NOT MEANT TO BE.

...I COULD HAVE DONE THIS...YET I COULD NOT CONCEIVE OF IT.

I AM CALLED THE RICHEST MAN ON EARTH...I PROVIDE FOR MY PEOPLE...FREE SCHOOLS, FREE HOSPITALS...

YES... I'M GOING TO WATCH IT...

Manila, The Philippines: Local Time 2130 Hours

IF WE MUST TAKE THE WHOLE AMOUNT ...

IT'S TRUE, THEN. CANCEL ALL MY PLANS FOR TOMORROW. WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO DISCUSS THIS. CALL THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE CHIEF OF STAFF...

YES?

AH-- ANOTHER CALL.

OF COURSE WE KNEW THE SUPPOSED SOURCE. WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO MUST HAVE KNOWN...

...EVEN IF WE WANTED TO...?

HOW COULD WE INVITE THE AMERICANS BACK NOW...

AH, CORY, WHAT A MESS. I HELPED SEE YOU THROUGH SEVEN COUP ATTEMPTS...

chak

RIGHT, NINE A.M.... THANK YOU.

Taipei, Taiwan: Local Time 2130 Hours

I THINK YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, MR. PRESIDENT.

NOW IT SEEMS LIKE YOUR TONGUE'S JUST DANCING AROUND THE ISSUE. UMMM, UMMM.

AAAAAAAH, I MEAN, WHY PULL OUT OF THE SPRATLYS NOW? I MEAN, WE'VE DONE *OUR* PART--WE FRONTED YOU THE MONEY FOR THOSE F-16s...

YOU'RE GOING TO COME OVER HERE AND TALK ABOUT IT?...NOW, *THAT'S GOOD!* THAT RIGHT THERE WAS JUST THE ***BEST!***

TO LET TAIWAN DOWN WITHOUT EVEN A MOMENT OF PAYOFF...

OHHHHHHH, REALLY? WELL, IT *WOULD* BE NICE IF YOUR JOB IS ALL THAT GETS LOST, BUT THIS IS A MATTER OF *PRIDE* FOR THE OVERSEAS COMMUNITY!

Shenzhen, Guangdong, China: Local Time 2130 Hours

DISAPPEARED ...EH?

WE'RE THE LARGEST PLAYER HERE BY FAR. WE DON'T LITERALLY REQUIRE THE G FUND, DO WE?

MCLANEY'S BEEN A GOOD CUSTOMER...

NOW, SIR, DOES THIS MATTER ALL THAT MUCH? WE'VE BEEN FINANCING THINGS SATISFACTORILY UNTIL NOW JUST THROUGH SELLING EXPLORATION RIGHTS.

!

...AS THAT WE LITERALLY *WANTED* IT.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE OVERALL PLAN, CHU. IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT WE LITERALLY *REQUIRED* IT...

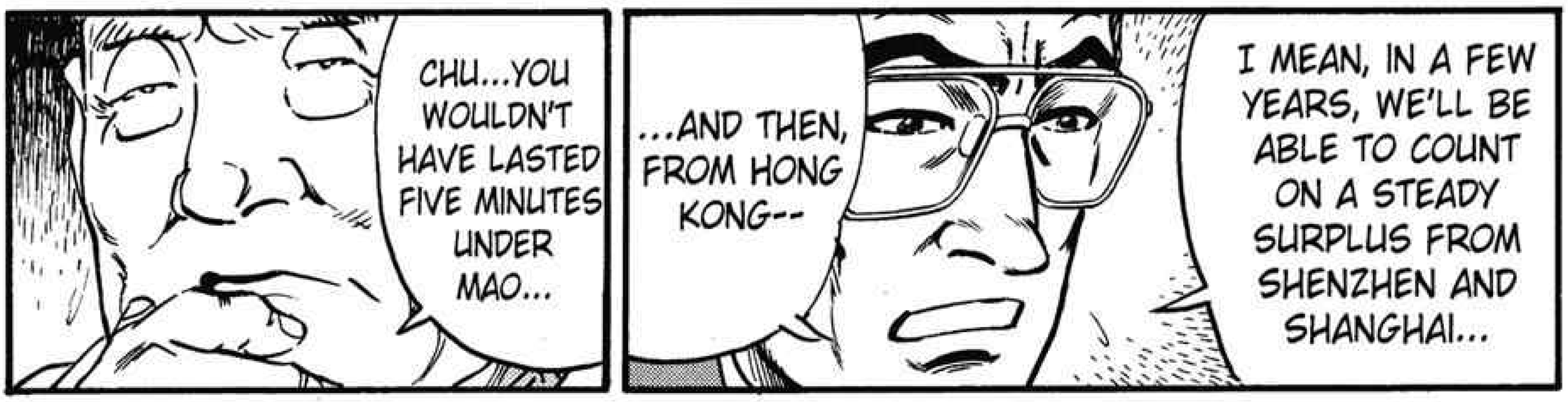
...NO, THAT $20 BILLION WOULD HAVE COME IN VERY, VERY, HANDY.

WE CAN'T SIMPLY SELL MORE TO GET DEVELOPMENT MONEY...

THE LOT SOLD TO THE MCLANEY COMPANY WAS ONLY 2% OF THE TERRITORY CHINA OCCUPIES...ABOUT ALL OF THE CONCESSION WE COULD RISK SELLING WITHOUT PROVOKING AN *UNACCEPTABLE* LEVEL OF CONFLICT.

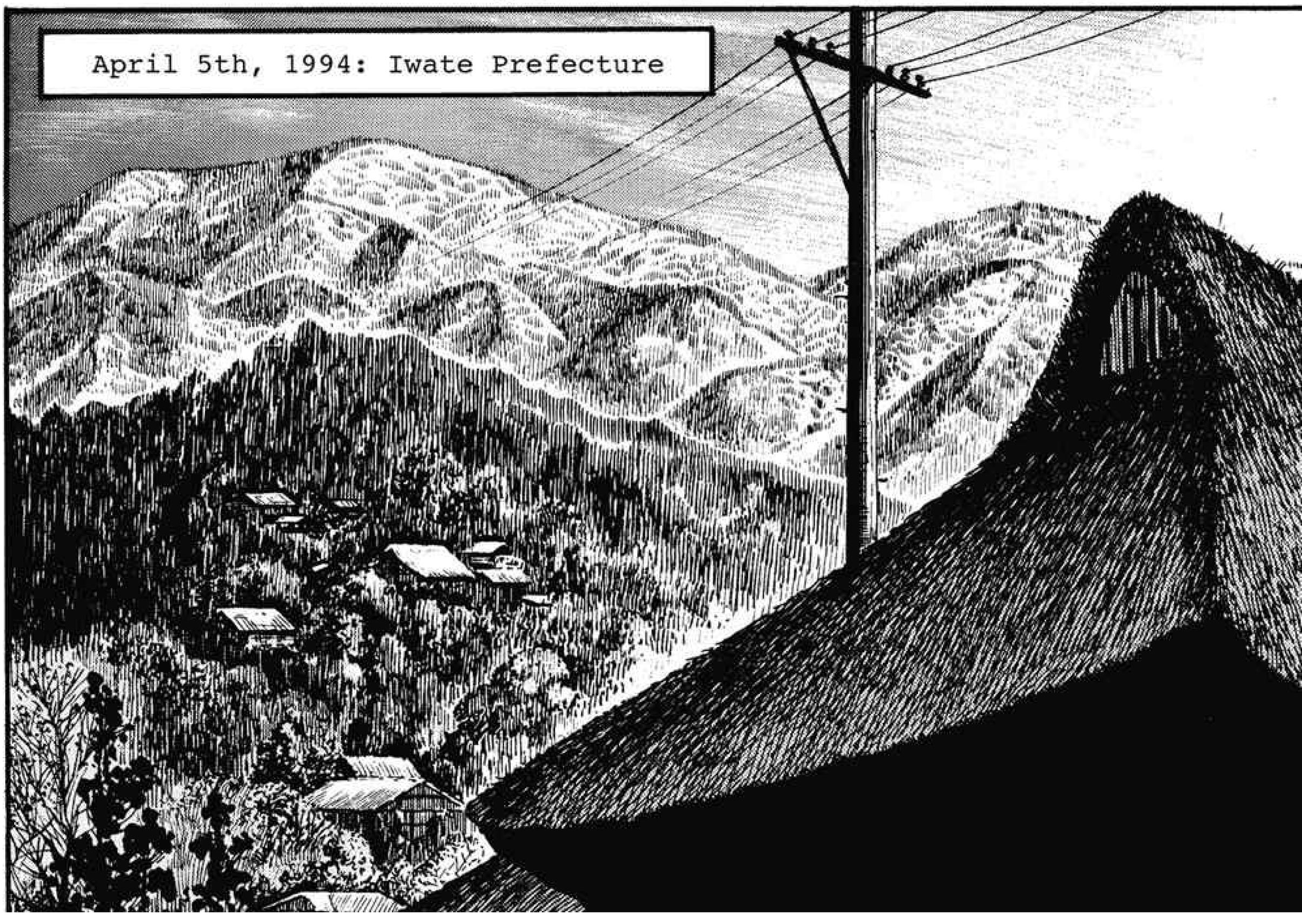
...BUT, SIR! CHINA CAN'T LOSE OUT! SURELY WE'VE GOT TO USE WHAT WE HAVE AND TAKE THE RISK!

BUT...


CHU...YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED FIVE MINUTES UNDER MAO...
...AND THEN, FROM HONG KONG--
I MEAN, IN A FEW YEARS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON A STEADY SURPLUS FROM SHENZHEN AND SHANGHAI...

.....
TO THAT *LAOWAI* YOU WERE TALKING TO DOWN IN BALI, YOU WERE NOTHING BUT A MAHJONG TILE.
DON'T YOU SEE THAT WAS THE WHOLE POINT OF THE 1997 TIME LIMIT? IT WAS TO ROPE US IN...MAKE US PLAY THE GAME IN THE FIRST PLACE. OTHERWISE WE COULD HAVE JUST WAITED EVERY-ONE OUT.

PART 8 SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD

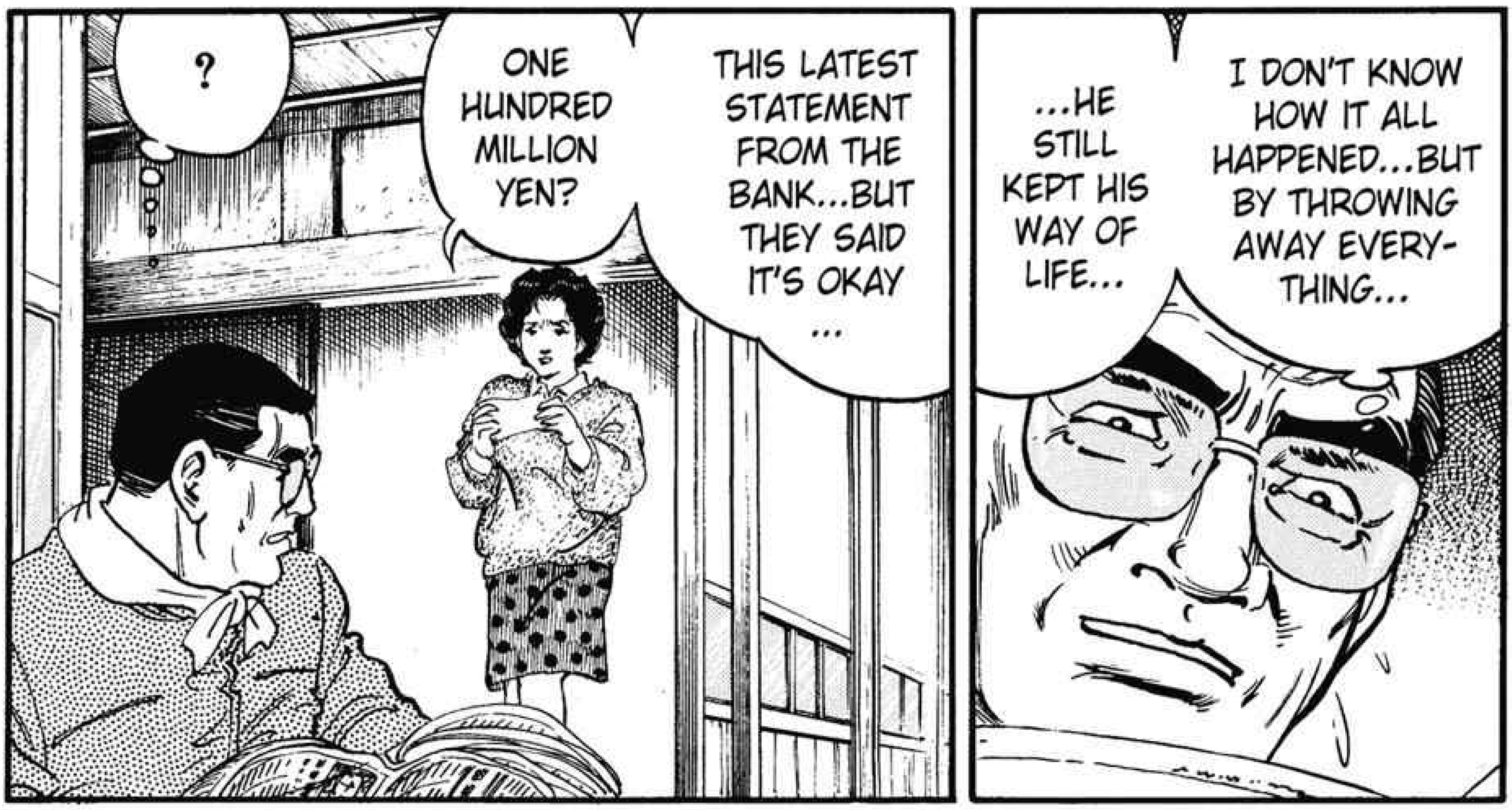


FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT – Speculation continues as to the identity of the donor believed to have made what is the largest charitable contribution by an individual on record, despite the accompanying request for privacy, affirmed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali during his press conference announcing the bequest this last Friday.

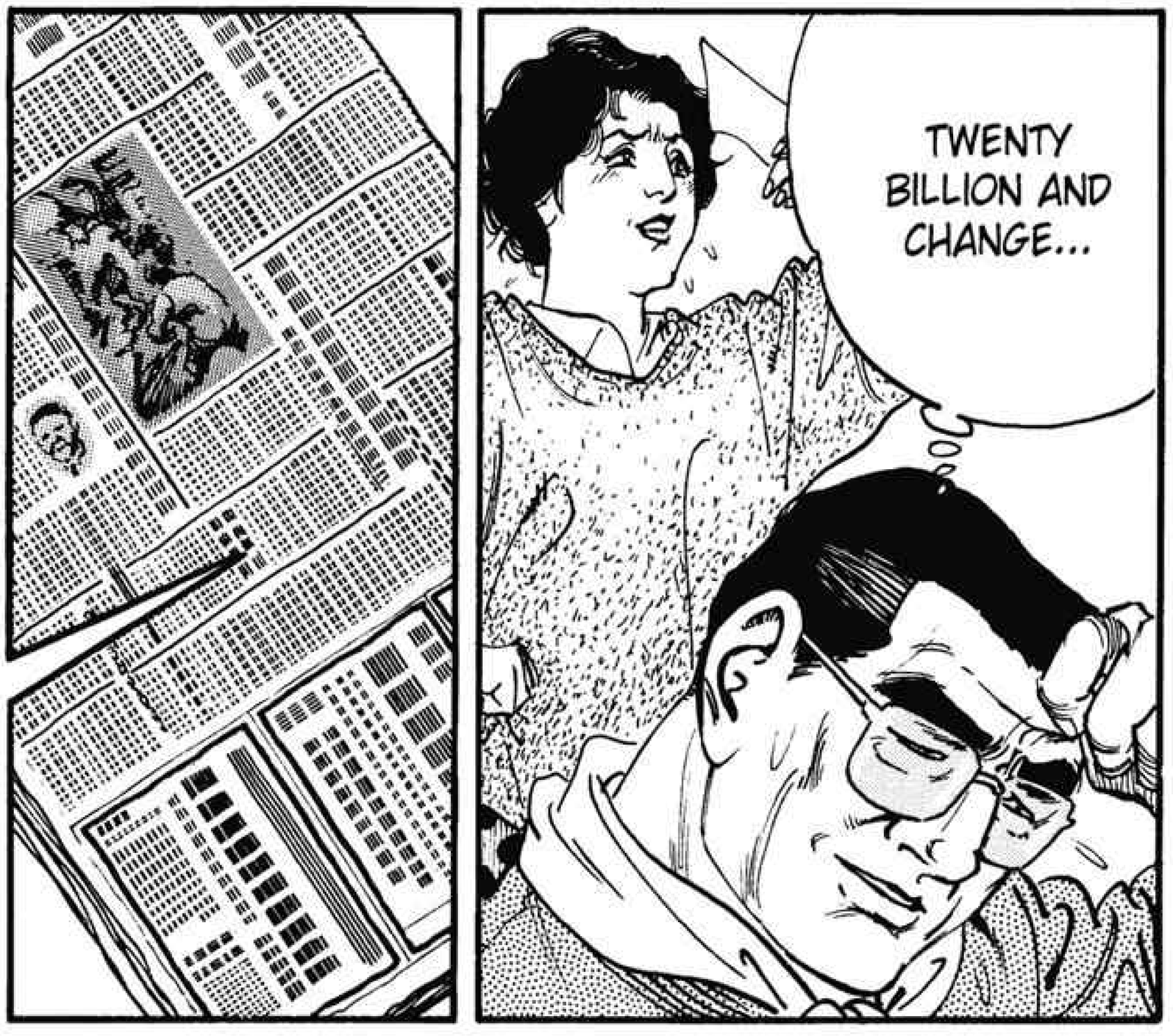
A rumor sweeping the media over the weekend pointed the finger for what is being called the "April True" gift towards the Sultan of Brunei, on the grounds he is perhaps the only person on Earth with assets exceeding US$20 billion, and the Sultan's prior interest in rainforest protection in Southeast Asia. However, vigorous denials from the chancery of Brunei in Washington were

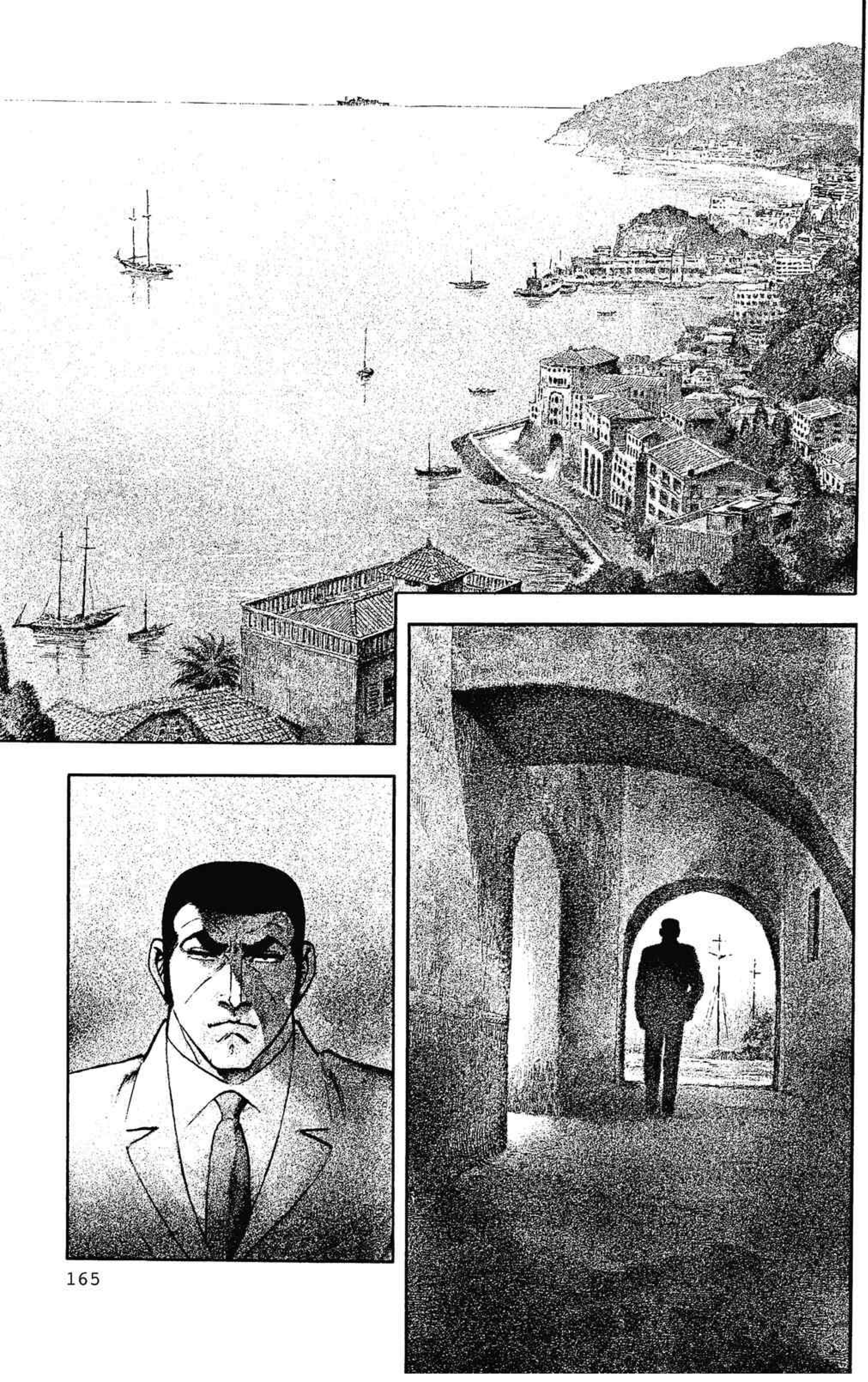
MANILA, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES—On Monday, April 4th, Philippine President Fidel Ramos presided over a joint "Statement of Intent" regarding the disputed Spratly Islands, a dispersed collection of over 100 islets, reefs and shoals lying in the South China Sea. Diplomatic representatives of China, Vietnam, and Malaysia were in attendance

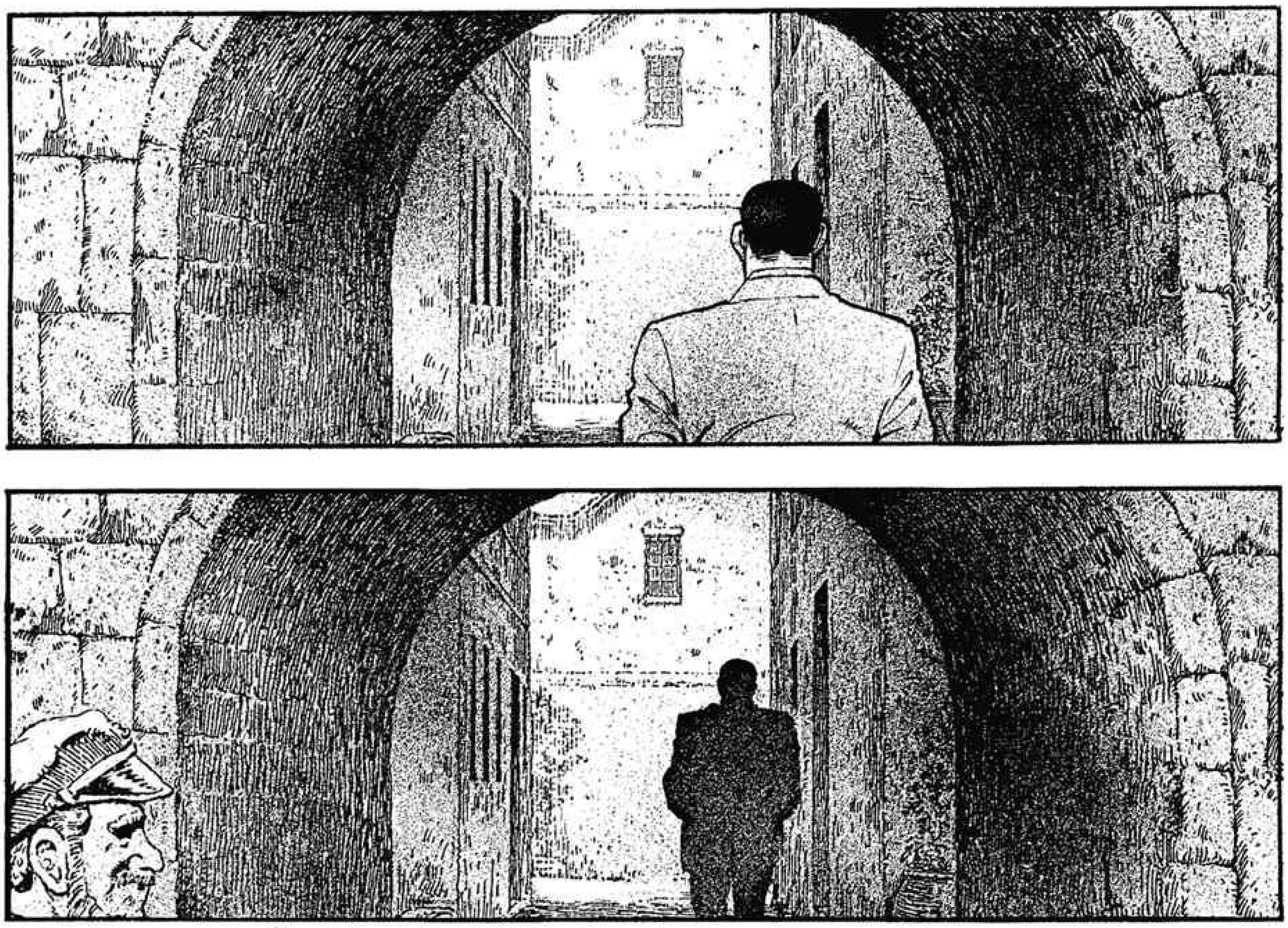
sudden breakthrough in this international flashpoint that has been contested since the Second World War. The statement provides for a freeze on new military forces or installations in the Spratlys, as well as joint endeavors for oil and gas exploration. Taiwan and Brunei have made overtures towards the announcement which are generally positive

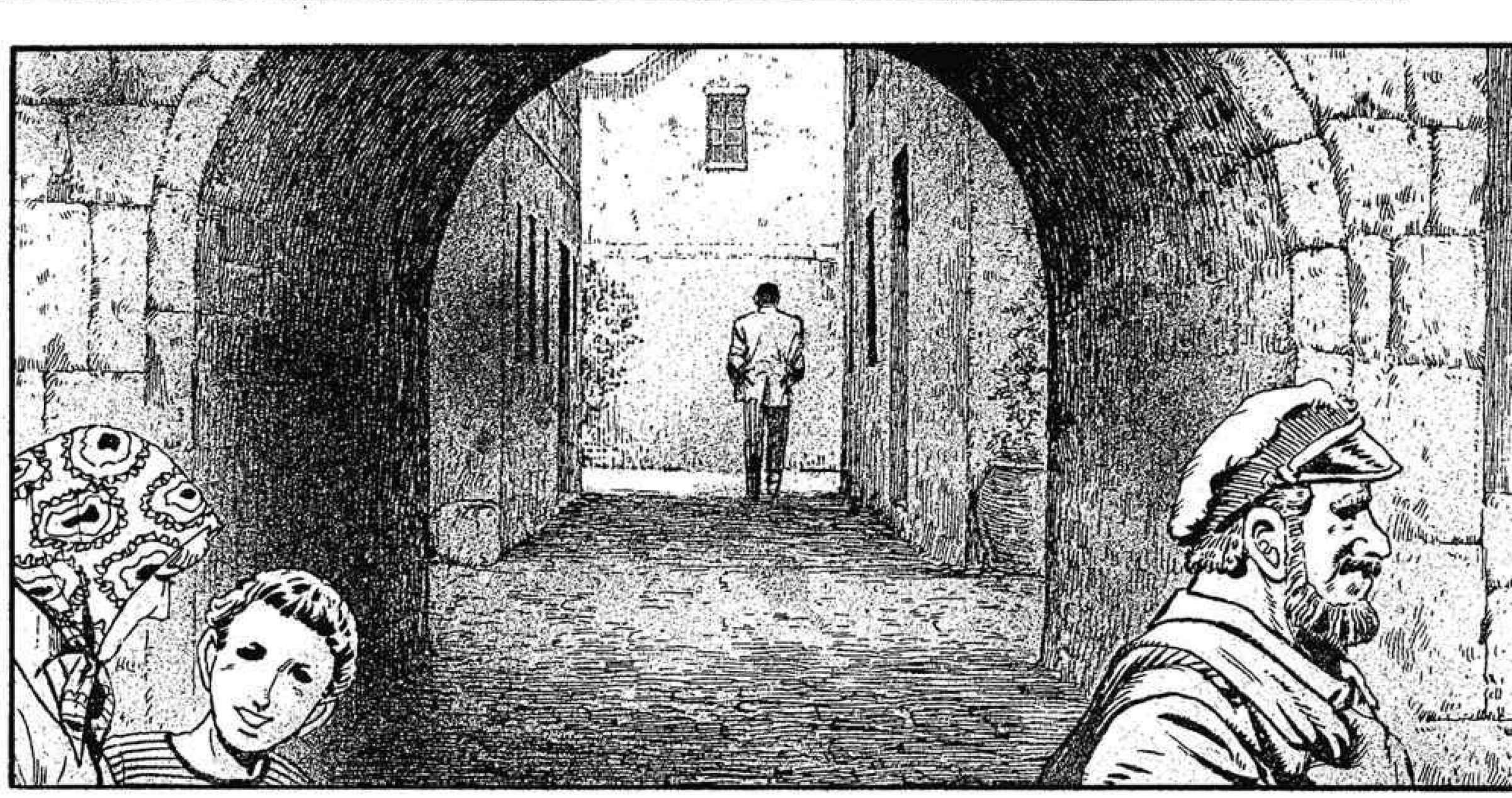

?
ONE HUNDRED MILLION YEN?
THIS LATEST STATEMENT FROM THE BANK...BUT THEY SAID IT'S OKAY ...
...HE STILL KEPT HIS WAY OF LIFE...
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT ALL HAPPENED...BUT BY THROWING AWAY EVERY-THING...
!!
YOUR CONSULTANT FEE...?
IS...IS THIS FROM MARUBISHI ...?

BALI, INDONESIA— A tourist group at the resort town of Kintamani was shaken late Saturday evening when a explosion rocked a nearby private villa. The sole fatality in the incident was determined to be the villa's owner, Jakob Nachtbloem, 59, Dutch national and longtime local resident. Initial reports that the victim had been shot proved erroneous, as police ascribed the puncture wounds on the body to shrapnel from the blast, an apparent result of defective stovetop tubing. Investigations continue







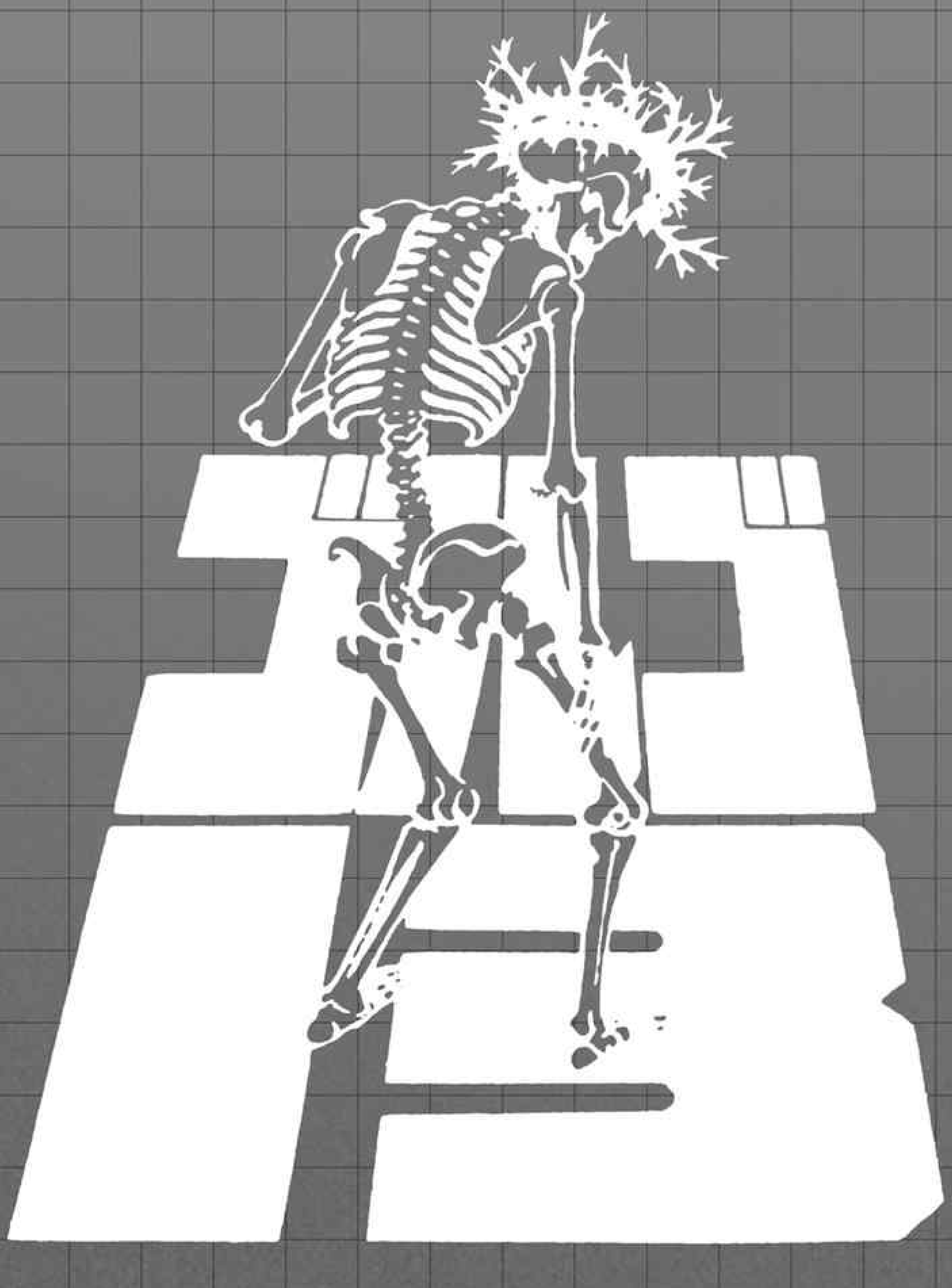


END

A Fierce Southern Current
Golgo 13 Special Edition Story #39, April 1994

FILE 13

Secrets of the World's Deadliest Assassin



Summary: History and profile of **GOLGO 13** (a.k.a. "Duke Togo," other aliases) since 1968; sources include former KGB, CIA, SIS, Mossad, and other world intelligence agencies.

GOLGO 13
SIGHTING METHODS WITH THE M16

• Golgo's use of the M16 usually "ignores" its distinctive built-in sights: the rear sight at the top of the rifle's carrying handle in alignment with the front sight on the triangular rise before the flash suppressor (see note 15). Although quite suitable for ordinary combat sighting, G13's sniper work with the M16 demands the precision of a telescoping sight. Golgo has mounted it in two ways that have also been employed by the U.S. military.
• The first method, simply attaching a scope mount to the standard carry handle, saw use in Vietnam, where this variant was known as the Colt Model 655 M16A1 Special High Profile ("High Profile" in this designation referred to the height of the weapon with scope added). It is not known specifically whether G13 also employs the heavier barrel used with the 655 variant in this configuration; however, it is probable, as he frequently customizes any particular M16 he might use.
• The second method involves the removal of the carry handle itself and its replacement with a mounting for a scope. This modification anticipated a similar standard being adopted by the U.S. Army and Marine Corps in recent years with the M16A4, where the regular handle or other sighting systems or accessories can be mounted as the mission requires.
• While the first method was already in use at the time of G13's earliest documented assassinations, he is believed to have derived the second independently of U.S. military design. It is thought that practice with the first method was for cases where he expected to obtain a M16 at or around the target site, whereas the second method was for situations where he was able to bring such a customized weapon with him.

(15.) One of the unforeseen consequences side effects of assault rifle design is that the shorter barrel means the gunpowder does not finish its burn before the bullet emerges, and hence a bright flash becomes visible (especially during night firing) from the end of the barrel. The purpose of the suppressor is not so much to make the flash less visible to observers—the length necessary for this would be an unacceptable tradeoff—as to make it less visible to the rifle's user, as it would otherwise constantly disrupt his night vision. The flash suppressor does so by directing the hot gasses of the burn in directions away from the rifle's line of sight.

In 1980's Story #163, "Striking Back From Zero," a local gunsmith on the Afghan-Pakistani border was observed to modify a M16 he had in stock to Golgo's specifications. This attests also to the weapon's ubiquity; G13 can often obtain one at the mission site itself, if need be.

A Steyr AUG rifle of the type used by Golgo's adversary in 1993's Story #318, "Bionic Soldier." Note the magazine and firing chamber are behind the handgrip. The barrel therefore starts farther back in the gun, and therefore the overall length of the rifle can be proportionally shortened with no loss of accuracy. This so-called "bullpup" configuration is in current use by several of the world's armies, but not the United States. In theory, a rifle of this type would be easier for a sniper to conceal; a few models are designed to use the M16 cartridge and magazine. Might Golgo eventually adopt one?

GOLGO 13
THE ASSAULT RIFLE AS SNIPER WEAPON

Selected comments by war correspondent and defense analyst Kenjiro Kato on the "other main character" of the manga—Golgo 13's habitual assassination weapon, the M16 rifle and two of its variants, the M16A1 and M16A2. Additional remarks by the English-language editor.

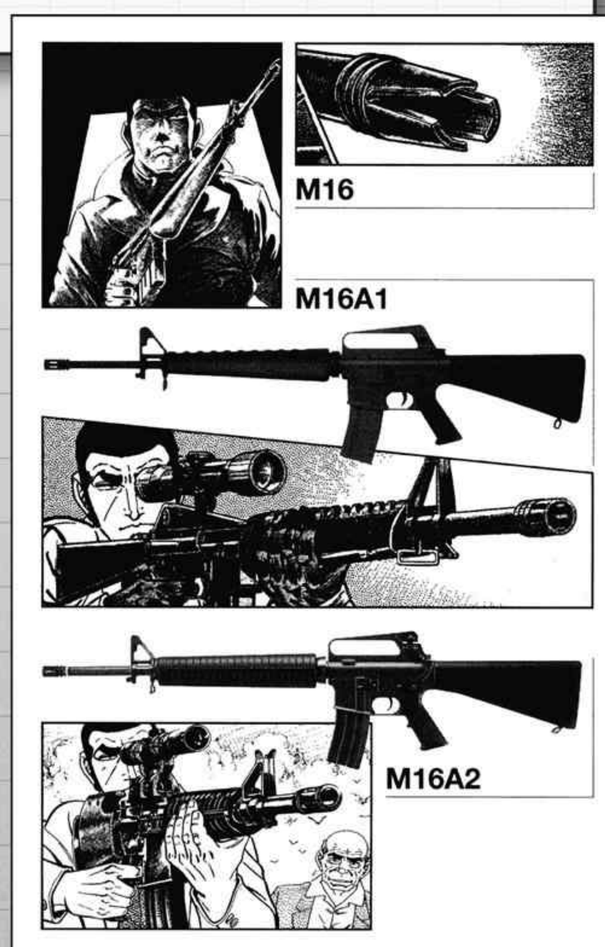
• A frequently voiced misunderstanding is the "common sense" notion that the M16 assault rifle Golgo 13 uses is a close-combat weapon, and therefore unsuitable for sniping. It is in fact often used by U.S. forces at short range; this and its capacity for burst fire has led some civilian observers to mistake it for a kind of submachine gun—that is, a weapon like the Uzi or Mac-10, whose accuracy is measured in the tens rather than hundreds of meters.
• The M16, however, is an assault *rifle*—even in its early configurations it proved a perfectly accurate weapon for precision shooting at ranges of up to half a kilometer—or, in the urban conditions common to Golgo 13's assassinations, from a range of two-and-a-half city blocks (see note 14). More recent models anticipate ranges of up to 800 meters, or four city blocks. In fact, the M16 and variants thereof have been employed by the U.S. military in a sniping role since the Vietnam War and continue to be today.
• The origin of the assault rifle derives from analysis conducted by the German Army after the First World War. Classic infantry rifle development over the preceding century had been driven by the notion that the superior weapon was one which could fire a large, heavy bullet for as far a range as possible; in fact, the 7.92 mm cartridge in common use was designed for accurate shooting up to 1800 meters away. But study of actual combat conditions during the battles of WWI revealed it had become rare that the average soldier had occasion to fire their rifles at any target beyond 500 meters in range.
• The concept of the assault rifle was a design tradeoff, exchanging the old concept of a rifle firing a heavy bullet accurately at extreme distance for elements that gave the infantryman a weapon that was more effective overall for modern combat. Adopting a shorter and lighter bullet also meant a shorter and lighter weapon; moreover, the soldier could now carry more ammunition. These features in turn made more practical the addition of an automatic fire option (as this uses ammo rapidly) and the cheaper mass production of the weapon itself. During the Second World War, Walther deployed the first operational assault rifle, the *Maschinen Karabiner* 42, to the Russian front. Study of this weapon and its doctrine during and after WWII led to the development of modern infantry weapons, including both the Soviet AK47 and the American M16.

(14.) In fact, Golgo 13 has been observed to use a specialist sniper rifle in certain cases where the kill must be carried out at a range greater than a few hundred meters; examples include the Weatherby Mark V (Story #50, "Room No. 909," 1971) at 500 meters and a customized Walther (Story #37, "At Pin-Hole!," 1971) at 1020 meters. G13's fundamentally practical approach to his work must be emphasized. While he is indeed considered one of the world's top sharpshooters, his business is contract killing, not the setting of distance records (there have been instances where military snipers have hit targets at ranges of over 2 km). Golgo 13 has been known to overcome extraordinary tactical challenges to make a hit, but these rarely involve the issue of extreme range *per se*.

Although the M16 is Golgo's preferred assassination weapon, he feels no professional attachment to any individual rifle. Even ones he has had customized for a job are sometimes disposed of or abandoned afterwards, especially if the getaway requires it. With over eight million rifles in the M16 family manufactured since 1960, in use by 80 countries on six continents, he will have no difficulty obtaining another one.

GOLGO 13
THE M16 SERIES: VISUAL COMPARISON

The original M16 had a three-pronged flash suppressor. In jungle combat this was found to have a dangerous tendency to catch on plants and was replaced with a "birdcage"-type suppressor in the M16A1 and M16A2. Note the front grip in the A2 is round instead of triangular (this permits a better hold by smaller soldiers) and features an adjustable rear sight. The A2's stock is also slightly longer and considerably stronger due to advances in plastic design in the decades since the M16A1.



Famous Quotes:

"A program can't see as do the eyes of those who face death, upon which shine an indescribable light. I have seen many such eyes . . ."

(Story #398, "Chance of Survival 0.13%" 2000)

About the Commentator:

Kenjiro Kato, born 1961, is one of the few Japanese of his generation who has sought to learn the reality of war face-to-face. After being told "non" by the French Foreign Legion (he failed the physical), Kato pursued the route of journalism, which took him to Latin America in the '80s, the Balkans in the '90s, and Iraq today. His most recent book as a war correspondent is *The Battlefield Employment Agency*, a sardonic FAQ for Japanese wishing to visit today's trouble spots, drawing on Kato's experience in covering North Korea, Chechnya, and the "human shields" which traveled to Baghdad in the spring of 2003 in the hopes their presence would discourage an attack.

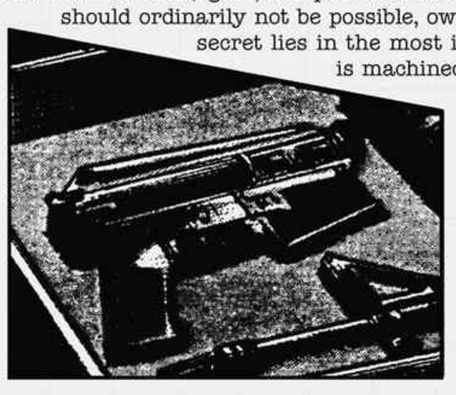
GOLGO 13
DEVELOPMENT OF THE M16 SERIES

• The M16 and its "family" is sometimes known as the Armalite, as the weapon had its origins with a design group of that name. Armalite, a weapons research unit of the Fairchild Aviation Corporation (now a division of San Antonio-based M7 Aerospace), produced an experimental rifle called the AR-10 in 1955. Designed by Eugene Stoner (1922-1997), it was innovative in sighting, design, and the use of lightweight materials, but nevertheless rejected in the 1950s by the U.S. Army owing to the small firm being unable to combat the political pressure of its rival, the established arms maker, Springfield. The AR-10 had been designed to fire the heavier 7.62 mm ammo, then the NATO standard; in 1958 Stoner retooled it to fire the 5.56 mm round, creating the AR-15. Being unable to recoup the design expenses, Armalite sold the AR-15 to another large rival, Colt.
• In the early 1960s, Colt was able to make small sales of the AR-15 to the U.S. Air Force and South Vietnam. Defense figures in the Kennedy administration came to support the weapon, and by 1964 the Army gave the AR-15 the designation Model 16 Rifle, or M16 (broadly speaking, when the weapon is found today in a non-U.S. military context, it is still called the AR-15). While the USAF retained the basic M16, the Army produced a version firing a finer-grained gunpowder called the M16A1, hundreds of thousands of which were sent to U.S. troops in Vietnam beginning in 1967. A critical error arose in Colt's insistence that this "futuristic" rifle needed no cleaning kit, and in its early use the weapon developed a reputation among soldiers for fouling and jamming , especially with sustained fire, until the correct information allowed its potential to be realized (see note 16).

(16.) 1969 saw an extraordinary irony in the publication of two separate comics centered on the M16, each of great yet very different kinds of influence. One, Takao Saito's *Golgo 13*, was fictional; the other, Will Eisner's *The M16A1 Rifle: Operation and Preventive Maintenance*, was instructional. Will Eisner (1917-2005) is often considered to be the pioneer of the American graphic novel with his 1978 publication of *A Contract With God*. But as early as 1940 Eisner's atmospheric newspaper feature *The Spirit* contained many of the hard-boiled, realist, and dynamic elements later found in the Japanese *gekiga* movement of the 1950s and 60s that would give rise to *Golgo 13*. Director William Friedkin cited *The Spirit* as an influence in the making of *The French Connection*. However, much of Eisner's career work was actually done for the U.S. Army, in the form of a successful and long-running series of educational comics for soldiers on weapons and equipment maintenance. One of Eisner's last military projects was the 32-page *M16A1 Rifle* booklet, which is credited with saving many American soldiers' lives through proper education about a weapon on which many of them had been dangerously misinformed. With its free mix of sex appeal and technical detail (a voluptuous blonde toting the rifle promises to teach you "How To Strip Your Baby") intended for a young adult male demographic, Eisner's booklet had a strange stylistic resonance with its contemporary, *Golgo 13*. Yet surely more bizarre was the cultural counterpoint it represented—whereas the use of the M16 by soldiers in Vietnam inspired Saito to feature it in an entertainment manga for a pacifist country, at the same time those same soldiers were being instructed in its actual use in war by one of America's own most important comics artists.

Dismantling and Assembly

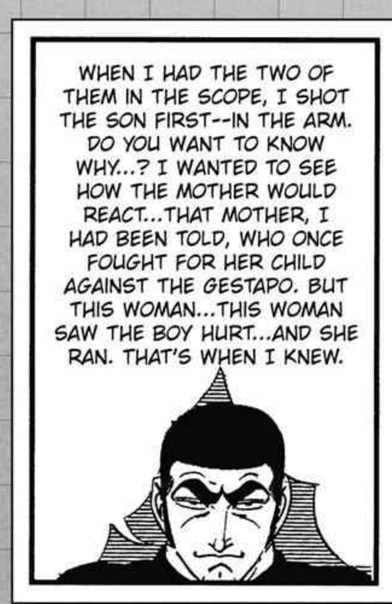
Although a soldier is expected to be able to "strip" his M16 down to its component parts for maintenance and reassemble it, Golgo also does so for concealment. However, G13 is able to break his custom rifle into components small enough to be carried inside a normal businessman's briefcase (again, an operational advantage in his frequent urban environment), which should ordinarily not be possible, owing to the 510 mm length of the M16A2 barrel. The secret lies in the most impressive aspect of the customization—the barrel is machined to be broken down into two parts. Considering the pressures during firing, such a modification would ordinarily impose considerable risk to the structural integrity of the barrel. It is thought that the two-piece barrel is milled from titanium (a material with which Stoner experimented for purposes of weight reduction) rather than the M16's regular steel alloy. The front grip may also be modified to reinforce the join while dampening vibration; finally, this arrangement may be practical for a sniper, who does not anticipate that the arrangement must endure the pressures of prolonged firing.



• Golgo 13 sometimes chooses a firing posture which exposes part or all of his body; a practice that illustrates an important difference between a sniper in combat and a sniper as contract killer—namely, the soldier is expecting counter fire, the assassin is not. While he takes precautions against his position being casually observed, most of G13's targets are in a civilian context and simply do not have the elaborate counter-sniper measures of the type employed, for example, by the Presidential Protection Detail of the U.S. Secret Service (see note 17). Many indeed are not expecting danger at all, or if guarded, are done so by personnel carrying only short-range weapons and untrained in determining the direction from which a distant shot was fired (consider the conflicting testimonies in this regard from the JFK assassination). In sum, there are frequent instances where Golgo 13 can shoot a target with no practical risk to himself. This is, after all, one of his professional goals (see Vol. 01's *File 13* under "Habits and Methods").

From 1969's Story #2, "The Howl of Delos." G13 takes on jobs to kill specific people, often in situations where information on the target is lacking or inaccurate. As a mistake would be as good as a miss, Golgo observes more than his target's simple position.

(17.) Golgo 13 is not in fact believed to have ever taken on a target guarded by the Secret Service. Although he is known or thought to be responsible for the deaths of dozens of Americans, he has also been retained for jobs on numerous occasions by various U.S. government agencies. It is speculated that he wishes to maintain a "balance" for the sake of his continued career that would rule out his ever accepting a high-level contract of this nature. There is evidence, however, to suggest that G13 was involved in events surrounding the U.S. presidential contests of both 1980 and 2000; details of these reports remain classified to date, due to their extreme political sensitivity.


WHEN I HAD THE TWO OF THEM IN THE SCOPE, I SHOT THE SON FIRST--IN THE ARM. DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY...? I WANTED TO SEE HOW THE MOTHER WOULD REACT...THAT MOTHER, I HAD BEEN TOLD, WHO ONCE FOUGHT FOR HER CHILD AGAINST THE GESTAPO. BUT THIS WOMAN...THIS WOMAN SAW THE BOY HURT...AND SHE RAN. THAT'S WHEN I KNEW.

• In 1982, the U.S. Department of Defense designated a new variation called the M16A2 (for modifications, see "The M16 Series: Visual Comparison" above); it remains the Army's standard weapon today, although since 2000 the Marine Corps has employed a variant called the M16A4 (see "Sighting Methods with the M16" above). Golgo 13 himself was not observed to use an M16A2 until 1992 (Story #308, "The Masterpiece Assault Rifle"). It is thought this delay reflects the same careful observation of its performance that led him to adopt the original M16 and M16A1 (whose early fouling would have proven less problematic to G13, as he rarely used it for sustained fire) and followed the flood of data on the A2 from the 1991 Gulf War.

• In recent years, the United States Marine Corps has studied the special requirements of urban sniping at 500 meters or less with a research program entitled Project Metropolis. This involved the creation of an M16 variant designated the Squad Advanced Marksman Rifle, or SAM-R; the U.S. Army developed an equivalent known as the Squad Designated Marksman Rifle, or SDM-R. With their optimized barrels, triggers, and handguards, it is thought these weapons employ many of the same customizations Golgo 13 developed independently as a result of his own decades of experience as a sniper in the urban environment. Kato notes that G13 has not only studied the history of this weapon, he has also led it.

A U.S. soldier trains with today's M16A2. Although he seeks to avoid it, sometimes G13 must rely on firepower to escape a situation; on rare occasions he also will accept a job that requires a military assault. If such combat then occurs, his proficiency with the M16 makes him prepared for it, whereas a specialized sniper rifle would be much less flexible in short-range conflict.

The Scope

Most of Golgo 13's assassinations are carried out from a range requiring the use of a telescopic sight, or scope, on his rifle (indeed, wishing to ensure escape from the scene, such distance killing is his preferred M.O.). G13 typically uses an adjustable objective sight of 3-9x40, meaning he can manually select a range of magnifications between three and nine times power, with the lens diameter (determining field of sight; actual field of sight is narrowed with progressively higher magnifications) being 40 mm in diameter. Note that a scope does not necessarily have to magnify to be useful to the target shooter. A rifle's built-in (or "iron") sights present the challenge that the target, rear sight, and front sight are all at different distances, yet so close that the human eye can only achieve focus on one at a time. The optics inside a scope, however, are arranged to make the crosshairs appear at a distance from the rifle, allowing a singular focus on the distant target. Therefore one will also see 1x scopes.

• Lying down is the ideal posture for sniping, but the given terrain or situation may make it unsuitable. By contrast, standing up would be the posture preferred from a moving vehicle, in order that the length of the shooter's body might absorb as much vibration as possible; yet again, conditions may prevent this. Although G13 prefers an uncomplicated kill, an important part of his professional reputation is the ability to carry out a job under difficult or unusual conditions; therefore he has developed the ability to shoot accurately from any position required.

• Many snipers use a bipod to steady the front of the rifle (and the U.S. military SDM-R and SAM-R feature one, or a mounting for it), but Golgo appears to place his trust in his arms and hands. There have also been situations where G13, ready at his firing point, had to swing his rifle away quickly to deal with a nearby threat. It is believed he may consider a bipod a risk in this situation, as it would significantly increase the chance of the barrel catching on or striking an object while in mid-swing; this again would reflect his wish for close-combat readiness in his sniping weapon.

• Because of Golgo 13's occasional loss of control to his right hand (see Vol. 02's File 13 under "Chronic Disease"), he has been known to shoot using his left. This flexibility itself requires training, as for sniping purposes it is insufficient to merely pull a trigger—the subtleties in the way it is pulled can affect accuracy. The issue of left-handed use of a standard right-handed weapon has been discussed in the U.S. military (in fact one of the changes introduced with the M16A2 are symmetrical handguards), but for accuracy the choice of hand is not as important as the choice of eye; most individuals have stronger eyesight in one than the other. Kato notes he himself is right-handed but left-eye dominant and has found better success using his left eye when firing from a stable position.

• For dramatic purposes, the manga portrayal of Golgo's hits emphasizes his sighting abilities (it is, naturally, a visual medium), but his jobs and sometimes even his survival require more than clear resolution on a still target. Hearing and also scent come into play, particularly when on the defensive. G13 observes well rather than merely sees well; more than once he has had to make a last-minute determination of target, or predict the target's next move, in order to carry out the kill. On one occasion he even sighted based on information from a TV image, rather than observing the target directly (1987's Story #248, "Hollywood Cinderella").